

Bearing Fruit Part 2

JOHN 15:1-10

Jesus, walking with the disciples toward the Garden of Gethsemane, gives life lessons to His disciples using the familiar example of growing grapes. With that analogy in mind, let's begin this series by better understanding the terms being employed by our great and wonderful Savior and Teacher.

WHAT IS FRUIT BEARING?

1. Fruit is the produce that others can _____ from.
2. Fruit bearing occurs naturally when we _____.
3. You are the _____.

HOW DOES ONE ABIDE IN CHRIST?

1. We abide in Christ through the _____.
2. We abide in Christ by _____.
3. We abide in Christ by _____.

* Obedience to the word of God and the love of God are _____.
4. We abide in Christ through _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): John 14:23; John 17:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:12-16; Psalm 1:1-2; John 6:63; 1 John 4:16-18; Psalm 42:1-2, 63:1, 84:10

Reference Works: Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters: The Gospel of John, I, II, and III John (Bob Utley); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilson Stallings); John (Kenneth O. Gangel); John (Barnabas Lindars)

Discussion Questions

1. What's one area of your life where you've seen spiritual growth or "fruit" in the past year?
2. Read John 15:1-10. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. What does "abiding in Christ" mean to you personally? How would you explain this concept to a new believer?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:16 together. How does knowing you are the "temple of the Holy Spirit" change the way you view yourself? Your daily activities?
5. What practical steps could you take this week to move from "wolfing down" to "feasting" on God's Word?
6. Read 1 John 4:16-18. The passage says fear indicates we haven't fully experienced God's perfect love. What fears or anxieties are currently present in your life? How might abiding more deeply in God's love address those fears?
7. "Obedience flows naturally from love." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
8. Is there an area where you know God is calling you to obedience but you've been resisting? (Share only as comfortable)
9. Be honest: Do you treat God more like a "vending machine" (coming for stuff) or as someone who desires relationship with you? Explain.
10. What can we do as a group to better abide in Christ?



For 2000 years, the church has existed for only one reason ... to change the world.

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Holy of Holies Within You

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16

The ancient Israelites approached God's presence with trembling and elaborate ritual. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies only once yearly. Yet Scripture declares something astounding: if you are a believer, YOU are the Holy of Holies. God doesn't dwell in a distant temple but has made His home within your heart through the Holy Spirit. This isn't merely theological truth—it's transformational reality. Consider this: the God of the universe has chosen to tabernacle within you. You don't need to travel to meet Him or perform rituals to access Him. He is here, now, closer than your breath. How does recognizing God's indwelling presence change how you approach this day? Live today aware that you carry the presence of God wherever you go.

Day 2: Feasting on the Word

Reading: Psalm 1:1-3; John 15:7

We live in a culture of spiritual fast food—quick devotionals consumed while rushing to the next thing. But Jesus invites us to something richer: abiding in His Word. This isn't about checking off a religious obligation; it's about feasting at a banquet table. The psalmist describes someone who "delights" in God's law, meditating on it day and night. This person doesn't wolf down a burger on the highway but savors a gourmet meal. When we abide in Christ's words, they become more than information—they become spiritual sustenance, life itself. Today, resist the urge to rush. Choose one verse and linger there. Read it slowly. Think deeply about what God is revealing. Let His truth marinate in your mind. Abiding takes time, but it produces fruit that quick consumption never will.

Day 3: Living in Infinite Love

Reading: John 15:9; 1 John 4:16-18

Consider this truth: Jesus loves you exactly as the Father loves Him. How much does the Father love the Son? Infinitely. Perfectly. Unconditionally. Without measure or limit. And that is precisely how Jesus loves you. Many Christians struggle to believe this reality. We reduce God's love to something conditional, earned, or fragile. But Scripture declares that God IS love—it defines His very essence. When fear, anxiety, or insecurity grip your heart, it reveals you haven't fully experienced His perfect love. Perfect love casts out fear. Today, don't just acknowledge God's love intellectually—abide in it. Sit quietly and let this truth wash over you: you are infinitely loved by the Creator of the universe. This love isn't based on your performance but on His character. Everything in your Christian life flows from this wellspring.

Day 4: The Obedience of Love

Reading: John 15:10; John 14:21-23

Obedience and love are inseparable in the Christian life. We don't obey to earn God's love; we obey because we treasure Him. When you deeply love someone, you naturally want to please them, honor them, serve them. Jesus modeled this perfectly—He kept His Father's commandments and abided in His love. Our response to God's Word reveals what truly fills our hearts. This isn't legalism; it's relationship. A child who loves their parent delights in bringing joy to them. Today, examine your heart: Is there an area where you're resisting God's clear direction? What command have you been avoiding? Remember, God's commands aren't burdensome restrictions but loving guidance from the One who knows you best. Choose one specific area of obedience today, not from guilt, but from gratitude for His infinite love.

Day 5: The Conversation of Prayer

Reading: Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1; John 15:7

Prayer isn't a vending machine where we insert requests and receive blessings. It's conversation with Someone who loves you. The psalmists expressed desperate longing for God's presence, declaring that one day in His courts surpasses thousands elsewhere. Do you hunger for conversation with God this way? We check our phones 186 times daily and spend seven hours on screens, yet claim we lack time for prayer. Our prayerlessness isn't about time; it's about desire. Jesus promises that when we abide in Him and His words abide in us, we can ask whatever we wish. This isn't a blank check for selfish desires but the natural outcome of intimacy—when you're close to someone, your hearts align. Today, put down your phone. Turn off distractions. Talk with your Heavenly Father. Share your fears, joys, questions, and gratitude. Abiding in Christ through prayer transforms relationship from transaction to true communion.

Deacons on Call

David Barks and Royce Blair

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** See you at VBS ... June 28-July 1
- **First Youth:** See Eric for summer schedule

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Bearing Fruit Part 2

JOHN 15:1-10

— Verses we all need to Memorize —

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **PHILIPPIANS 1:6** ESV

June 7, 2026