

# **Abide in Christ**

## **By Andrew Murray & Bo Stevens**

### **Abide in Christ**

In this series, we will explore the parable of the Vine and Its Branches in John 15:1-16. Jesus told this parable to His disciples on the night of His arrest, only hours before He would die on the cross. Jesus' main point in using this parable is to call each of us to live in an abiding relationship with Him, a relationship in which we live in Him and He lives in us. The goal of this series is to learn to abide, not simply learn what it means to abide.

### **Abiding in the Vine**

#### ***More Fruit***

Read John 15:1-4. When the Vinedresser finds a branch bearing fruit, He then goes to work so that it will bear \_\_\_\_\_.

Which level of satisfaction should you seek in fruit bearing? Check one.

- Self-contentment: "I'm doing my share of fruit bearing."
- Other's contentment: "You're a good example of fruitfulness."
- God the Vinedresser's contentment: "You are bearing all the fruit I am willing to give through you."

God demands only the quantity and quality of fruit He is willing to produce through you! What should you do? Check all that apply.

- Yield myself to Him and His work through me.
- Admit that His claim for more fruit is fair and right.
- Accept His offer to produce more fruit through me.
- Trust Him to do His work in and through me.

# Abide in Christ

## By Andrew Murray & Bo Stevens

### The Pruning

Mark the following statement T (true) or F (false).

\_\_\_ The vine needs its branches pruned or else fruit will be hindered.

\_\_\_ The branches are pruned so that they will bear more fruit.

What does the vinedresser cut off in the pruning process?

- Weeds and thorns outside the vine that may hinder growth
- Healthy wood or excess growth from the past

How would you describe your approach to the Father's pruning? Check one or write your own.

- I have never thought about the Father's need to prune my life.
- I resist Him when He comes to my life to prune away certain things.
- I accept the Father's pruning because I know it will lead to a deeper, more fruitful life in Christ
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### *The Pruning Knife*

Fill in the blanks:

The pruning knife of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

As Jesus taught His disciples, what did His Word do in their lives? Check one.

- Prepare them for the incoming of the Spirit by trying and cleaning them
- Made them feel good about themselves
- Gave them a few pointers on how to make their lives better

# **Abide in Christ**

## **By Andrew Murray & Bo Stevens**

### ***Abide***

In nature when a graft is placed in a vine, which of the following processes comes first? Check one.

- The sap of the vine enters the branch.
- The graft grows into the vine, and the vine grows into the graft, making them one.

What are some things you need to do in order to maintain your part of the abiding relationship with Christ? List below.

How important is your abiding in Christ? Check one.

- It is vital to all God intends. My relationship with Christ hinges on whether I maintain my commitment to abide in Him.
- It is not that important. Because Jesus loves me, I will experience Him whether or not I abide in Him.

### ***Unless You Abide***

What is the one and only way for a branch to bear fruit? Check one.

- Work hard to bear fruit independent of abiding in the vine.
- Abide in the vine most of the time, but not all the time.
- Abide in unbroken communion with the vine.

Are you ready to live as exclusively for Christ as the branch lives for the vine? If so, ask the Lord to help you live only for Him.

How would you describe your degree of abiding? Check one.

- Wholehearted. I've devoted myself completely to Christ and His desires.
- Most-hearted. I want to live for Christ, but I'm holding things back.
- Some-hearted. I have not yet decided to yield my whole life to Him.