

Abide in Christ

By Andrew Murray & Bo Stevens

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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.

Bearing Fruit of the Vine

I Am the Vine

Read John 15:1-6. The only way to obey Jesus' command "Abide in Me" is to have _____ and _____ fixed on Jesus.

Up to this point, how would you describe your approach to abiding? Check one.

- My life is characterized by strain and effort in an attempt to accomplish the goal of abiding.
- I am yielding my life to Christ, focusing on Him, and resting in Him.

You are the Branches

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

- ___ The relationship Jesus wants to establish with me is intensely personal.
- ___ My relationship with Christ will not be as personal as His relationship with the first disciples.

In each pair below, which statement accurately describes a branch of the true vine?

- ___ Feeble and helpless on its own ___ Strong and self-sufficient
- ___ Different nature than the Vine ___ Same nature as the Vine
- ___ Partially given to bearing Fruit ___ Wholly given to bearing fruit

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How significant is Jesus to you? Check one.

- He is my life. He works within me and provides all I need.
- On occasion He is a fairly significant part of my life.
- He does not play a very significant role in my life.

Much Fruit

Mark each characteristic as either *W* (work) or *F* (fruit).

- Something a machine can do
- Something only life can bear
- Product of a restful inner life
- Requires effort and labor
- Brought forth by love
- Compelled by law

Read Galatians 5:22-23. List two fruit you would like God's Spirit to bring about more completely in your life.

You Can Do Nothing

Mark the following statements *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- Jesus received His life from the Father moment by moment.
- Jesus did not mean that we literally could do nothing apart from Him.

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Match the conditions below with the truth.

Condition

- A. Without Christ
- B. With Christ

Truth

- ___ I can do all things
- ___ I can do nothing
- ___ No fruit
- ___ Much fruit

Which best describe how you are trusting and abiding in Christ?

- Moment by moment—constantly trusting Him for everything
- More and more—growing to trust Him every moment
- Periodically—trusting Him but not all the time
- Other: _____

Withered Branches

Which of the following are characteristic of withered branches?

- Weak and sickly but bearing fruit
- Faith was temporary and inadequate
- No abiding relationship and no fruit
- In danger of being cast off and burned

What may cause a person not to abide? Check all that apply.

- Refusal to forsake all for Christ
- Content with safety from hell but not genuine relationship with Christ
- Faith based on the wisdom of men, not on the power of God

How would you describe your relationship with Christ?

- Abiding, growing, and bearing fruit as I trust Christ
- Learning simply to give my life to Christ and abide in Him
- Becoming cold and stagnant in my relationship with the Lord
- Other: _____