

ABIDE IN CHRIST

JOHN 15:1-17 | KIM SHEPSON | November 21, 2021

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from you can do nothing."

"Think not so much of yourself as the branch, nor of the abiding as your duty, until you have first had your soul filled with the faith of what Christ as the Vine is. He really will be to you all that a vine can be—holding you fast, nourishing you, and making Himself every moment responsible for your growth and your fruit."

-Andrew Murray

I. We're called to Abide in Christ's Love.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." John 15:9

II. How do we move from believing to abiding?

"The great secret of abiding in Christ is the deep conviction that we are nothing, and He is everything."

-Andrew Murray

III. How abiding goes beyond believing.

A. Abiding leads to fruitfulness.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

How do you know if you're abiding? What kind of fruit are you bearing? Does the way you interact with people reflect the love of Christ?

B. Abiding leads to obedience.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed the Father's commands and remain in his love." John 15:9

How do you know if you're abiding? When you read Jesus' words, do you hope you can gloss over the hard parts of his teaching and just follow the easy parts, or do you evaluate how you can more fully obey and lean into him?

C. Abiding leads to pruning.

"My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." John 15:2

How do you know if you're abiding? In the midst of our trials, do we lean into the Father knowing that we can trust Him to carry us through.