

# What “Abiding” In Him Means

## John 15:1-11

To “abide” in Christ means to dwell, stay, remain, continue permanently, endure, stand firm, adhere to, maintain, fixed or permanent in a particular condition, bear patiently. Note three conditions of fruit bearing.

1. Bear fruit = “Every branch in me that beareth.” (Jn. 15:2)
2. Bear more fruit = Fruit bearers get purged to be more fruitful. (Jn. 15:2)
3. Bear much fruit = This quality glorifies the Father. (Jn. 15:8)
  - a. There are some who are fruitless. (Jn. 15:2)
  - b. Those who are fruitless are “taken away”. (Jn. 15:2)
  - c. Those who are devoid of Christ and barren. (Mt. 7:18)

### I. RECEIVE WHAT COME THROUGH THE VINE TO THE BRANCHES.

- A. Different needs from the soil: chemicals. Submissive. 16 chemicals possible.
  1. Will sometimes be pleasant: His presence will give a sense of well-being, satisfaction, blessing spiritually, financially, etc.
  2. Will sometimes be unpleasant: His leadership, or plan for your life, may bring circumstances that are frightening. (Mt. 14:22)
    - a. He never takes you into something to abandon you. Will see you and bring you through it. (Heb. 13:5; Ps. 23:4)
    - b. He always hears you however difficult a spot you may be in. God is not deaf. (Isa. 59:1; Jer. 33:3)
    - c. He always teaches you some lessons of value to help you and to help others through you. (II Cor. 1:3-4)
- B. Delightful deeds from the Saviour: comfort – specialties
  1. Only good things will come from vine to branches. (Mt. 7:11)
  2. Only God’s truth will bring from vine to branches what is needed. (Rom. 8:27)

Illustration: Wedded life – abide and all one has belongs to the other. Separation and divorce divides it so each loses benefits of all possessions.

### II. REVIVED BY WHAT COMES THROUGH THE VINE TO THE BRANCHES.

- A. Branches seasonally become withered in appearance. (Num. 17:8)
  1. Return of proper season renews: Luster, new life, greenery, fruit, blossoms that are fragrant. (Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:23)
  2. Renewed appearance for all to see: Shows, glows, grows. (II Cor. 3:2)
    - a. Without Him and His supplies our ability is zero (“can do nothing”) (Jn. 15:5)
    - b. With Him and His supplies He enables our zeal. (“can do all things.”) (Phil. 4:13)
- B. Branches reasonably become wholesome in appearance. (Ps. 92:13-14)
  1. Cleansed life: purged. (Eph. 5:26-27; I Jn. 1:7)
  2. Communicating life: fellowship. (I Jn. 1:3; Ps. 104:16)

3. Continuing life: maturity. (II Pet. 3:18)
  - a. Sap: Word of God. (Jn. 15:3)
  - b. Stable: Work of God. (Ps. 1:3)

Note: Christian more compared to palm than any other tree. This is the most useful tree to man. The encyclopedia tells us there are 800 different uses for it.

### **III. REWARDED FOR WHAT COMES THROUGH THE VINE TO THE BRANCHES.**

- A. The ways He rewards. (Jn. 15:7; Mt. 6:33; Phil. 4:19)
  1. With answers to prayer. (Jn. 15:7, 16)
  2. With attitude of peace. (Jn. 15:11)
  3. With awards of productivity. (Jn. 15:8; Ps. 34:10)
- B. The whys of reward. (Ps. 84:11)
  1. His promise you can count on. (Rom. 4:20-21)
  2. His presence you can count on. (Heb. 13:5; I Pet. 3:12)