**The Gospel of John:**

**The Fruit of Abiding in Christ**

*John 15:7-11*

Context

Abide is a popular word in Christian circles. It appears ten times in this section of Scripture. But what does it really mean? Jesus uses a horticultural analogy to his remaining disciples to make a point. There are four identities here:

1. **Vine**—Jesus (v 1, 5), the source of life for the branches
2. **Vine Dresser**—The Father (v1), prunes branches to bear more fruit
3. **Branches**—“you” (the Apostles) (v5)
	1. Fruit bearing (v 2, 5, 8), abiding in Jesus, His love, and His word
	2. Non-fruit bearing (v 2, 6), that are cut off, dried up, and burned

How are we to understand the branches and determine if we are abiding or not?

No one would have identified Judas as being a disciple that was fruitless. He gave the appearance as being attached to Christ, yet was not. It was a superficial connection. In the same way, there will be people in the church that give the appearance that they are in Christ, but are not. They do not manifest His power and His life within them.

**John 6:66**—As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

***1 John 2:19****—They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*

5 truths of abiding in Christ

1. Abiding in Jesus directs our prayers

**John 15:7**—*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

*Thelo (wish) - to delight in, to purpose, to will, intend*

1. The Father gives what is good

**Matthew 7:11b**—*how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!*

**1 John 5:14**—*This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

1. Abiding in Jesus changes our heart

**James 4:3**—*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

**Philippians 3:7-11**—*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

1. Bearing fruit glorifies God

**John 15:8a**—*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit*

* + 1. We must see our position rightly in humility

**Isaiah 66:1-2**—*Thus says the LORD, “Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? “For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word*

*Doxazo (glorified) - to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged*

* + 1. We are honored to glorify the Father

**Matthew 5:15-16**—*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

1. Bearing fruit proves discipleship

**John 15:8b**—*that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

*Ginomai (prove) - to come into being, to become, to be brought to pass*

**John 1:3**—*All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

* + 1. Jesus does not need proof

**John 10:14**—*I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me*

**John 2:23-24**—*Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.*

* + 1. Knowing for yourself

**John 8:31-32**—*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

*Assurance of our own interest in Christ, and our consequent eternal safety, is one of the highest privileges in religion. To be always doubting and fearing is miserable work. Nothing is worse than suspense in any matter of importance and above all in the matter of our souls. He that would know one of the best receipts for obtaining assurance should diligently study Christ’s words now before us. Let him strive to bear much fruit in his life, his habits, his temper, his words, and his works. So doing he shall feel the “witness of the Spirit” in his heart and give abundant proof that he is a living branch of the true Vine. He shall find inward evidence in his own soul that he is a child of God and shall supply the world with outward evidence that cannot be disputed. He shall leave no room for doubt that he is a disciple.[[1]](#footnote-1) - J.C. Ryle*

* + 1. Evident to the world

**Matthew 5:16**—*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

**John 13:35**—*They will know you by your love for one another.*

1. Keep Jesus’ commandments to abide in His love

**John 15:9-10**—*Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.*

* + 1. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law

**Matthew 5:17-19**—*“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

**Romans 6:1-2**—*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

* + 1. The Law actualizes Love

**Matthew 22:36-40**—*“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*

* + 1. Obedience is the demonstration of Love, the response to Grace

**John 14:15, 21**—*“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments ….* ***21****He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”*

**John 13:34-35**—*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

**Ephesians 5:1-2**—*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

* + 1. Jesus is our perfect example

**1 Peter 2:21-24**—*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

**1 John 3:16**—*By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

* + 1. Evidence of, but not means of salvation

**Titus 3:4-5**—*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy.*

**Galatians 2:16**—*nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**—*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

1. Abiding results in Joy

**John 15:11**—*These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

* + 1. Joy in Christ leads to worship

**Matthew 2:10**—*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

**Matthew 28:8-9**—*And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.*

* + 1. Continual abiding is required for continued joy

**Matthew 13:20-21**—*The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.*

**Matthew 13:44**—*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

**Conclusion:**

As true branches, we are to love one another (**John 15:12**) with a love that is incomprehensible to the world around us. Jesus, our perfect example, washes the feet of Judas, knowing that Judas will betray Him later that night. (**John 13:11**) We are completely incapable of this kind of love outside of abiding in Jesus.

1. *Ryle, J. C.. Expository Thoughts on the Gospel of John [Annotated, Updated]: A Commentary (pp. 316-317). Aneko Press* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)