**ABIDING IN THE VINE OF CHRIST**

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“*1 I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.****2****He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.****3****You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.****4****Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

***5****“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.****6****Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.****7****But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!****8****When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.* ***9****“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.****10****When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.****11****I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!****12****This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.****13****There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.****14****You are my friends if you do what I command.****15****I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.****16****You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.****17****This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:1-17*

**I. KEY TAKE-AWAYS FROM THIS PASSAGE**

**1. WE HAVE BEEN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO DO HIS WORK & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. TO BEAR FRUIT, WE MUST \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
4. TO ABIDE IN THE VINE, WE MUST \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IS PARAMOUNT IN ABIDING IN THE VINE**

**6. WHEN WE BEAR LASTING FRUIT, WE WILL RECEIVE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**7. WITHOUT GOD WE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**8. PRODUCING LASTING FRUIT PRODUCES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**9. THOSE WHO DO NOT ABIDE, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***“19These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.” 1 John 2:19*

**10. THIS MODALITY OF BEARING FRUIT ENSURES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**II. HOW CAN I ABIDE IN THE VINE OF CHRIST?**

**1. NEVER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**HOW DO I STAY IN THE GARDEN?**

**i. Stay In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“8**Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” Joshua 1:8*

**ii. Stay In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ With Other Fruit-Bearing Christians***“25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25*

**iii. Stay Faithful To At Lease 2 or 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***“42All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. 43A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.” Acts 2:42-46*

**iv. Stay In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“17As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” Proverbs 27:17*

**2. STAY IN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16 (ESV)*

**HOW?**

**i. Start Every Day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***“23Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23* **ii. Give God Ample Time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***“31But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)**“10 Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10*  **iii. Maintain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ All Day Long***“16Rejoice always, 17pray continually, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

**KEY: This Is, In Part, A Matter Of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“8And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8*

**3. REALIZE THAT SOMETIMES I HAVE TO BE A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & SOMETIMES A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***“38As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. 40But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” 41But the Lord said to her, ‘My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:38-42*

**KEY: Martha Work Will Never Be Effective \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Never   
  
Underestimate The Need For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)***“5“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5  
  
“1 Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a city,  
    guarding it with sentries will do no good.” Psalms 127:1*

**4. ENGAGE IN A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ WITH GOD**

*“****4****Remain in me, and I will remain in you.” John 15:4*

*“****17****Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.****18****And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.****19****May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:17-19*

**KEY: SEEK HIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** *“13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” Jeremiah 29:13*

**5. NEVER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD**

“*9“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.” John 15:9-10**“3And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. 4If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:3-6*

**KEY: Remain Humbly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ To The Lord**

*“****13****Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer,* ***14****and give up your sins— even those you do in secret.* ***15****Then you won’t be ashamed; you will be confident and fearless.” Job 11:13-15*

*“1 I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.****2****He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.” John 15:1-2*

**6. PRACTICE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OTHERS (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THEM)**

*“14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14*

*“18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” 1 John 3:18*

*“****12****This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.****13****There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13*

**KEY: Loving Others Will Require You To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“7Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8*

**QUESTIONS:**

* **Does My Fruit & My Joy Show That I Am Abiding In The Vine Of Christ?**
* **What Is God Calling Me To Commit To Today, That I Might Bear Fruit, Receive Overflowing Joy, & Be Assured That I Am Abiding In The Vine Of Christ?**