

# THE ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE KEY TO LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

John 15:1-11

Jesus had a word for a satisfying, significant life: FRUITFUL.

Jesus showed us the way to a fruitful life: ABIDE.

John 15 is about three relationships

Our relationship with Jesus: ABIDE in Christ

Our relationship with one another: LOVE one Another

Our relationship with the world: TELL About Me

John 15:1, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

This is the last of Jesus' 7 "I Am" statements in John

1. I am the BREAD Of Life (6:35)
2. I am the LIGHT Of The World (8:12)
3. I am the DOOR (10:9)
4. I am the Good SHEPHERD (10:11)
5. I am the RESURRECTION And Life (11:25)
6. I am the WAY, the TRUTH And the LIFE (14:6)
7. I am the TRUE VINE (15:1)

Ps. 80:8, "Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it."

Jeremiah 2:21, "Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?"

Hosea 10:1, "Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images."

3 things that I must remember EVERY DAY

## 1. I AM A "BRANCH"

God is the GARDENER

Jesus is the VINE

I am a BRANCH

A KEY to growth: STAY ATTACHED TO THE VINE!

John 15:2-3, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

What does the gardener do? Cuts OFF and cuts BACK.

A KEY to growth: DON'T TRY TO BE THE GARDENER!

What is this fruit? BEING LIKE JESUS CHRIST

## 2. I WILL BE PRUNED!

"Branches" must understand pruning.

Pruning is unavoidably necessary for FRUIT.

How can I get the MOST FRUIT out of this branch? Prune it

Pruning HURTS!

Some of God's Pruning Tools are...

His Word  
Our Daily Circumstances  
Our Major Struggles  
Our Relationships

John 15:4-6, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

### **3. I MUST ABIDE IN CHRIST!**

Abide: To stay at a place where you are, REMAIN.

"Abide in me"	Active	<u>Discipline</u>
"I in you"	Passive	<u>Dependence</u>

You CANNOT bear fruit unless you remain in Christ.

You WILL bear fruit ... much fruit... if you remain in Christ.

Apart from Jesus we can do NOTHING.

If I do not remain in Christ, I am like a USELESS branch.

Matthew 5:13, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

John 15:7-8, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Jesus gives us 3 specific examples of what happens when we abide in Him.

#### **1. My WORDS abide in you**

Prayer and PROMISE are always linked together

When I pray prayers that are answered:

God is GLORIFIED

I am bearing MUCH fruit

Other's SEE that I am a disciple of Jesus

John 15:9-10, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

#### **2. You abide in my LOVE**

How do I abide in His love? Obey Jesus the way Jesus obeyed God.

John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

#### **3. My JOY abides in you**

Jesus had a joy that could endure a CROSS.

Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

The question is, "Am I going to settle for an INCOMPLETE joy?"

Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."