

Abiding in Christ

The Vine and the Branches

John 15:3-4

MAIN IDEAS

- The role of the Word in cleansing and purifying us
- The call to abide—the disciplines of abiding
- The cost of not abiding

How does the Word cleanse and purify us? Consider 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:9-11.

If we have already been made clean by the Word, why does Jesus call us to abide (intimate, dependent fellowship and communion) in him? What picture does John 13:10 paint of how the world affects us?

What disciplines/practices would you expect to see in one who is abiding in Christ?

Explain the mutuality in abiding as found in John 15:4.

What happens to the branch that is cutoff from the vine? Relate this picture to the Christian life. In what whole-person (physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological and social) ways do we experience a similar fate?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What does or should abiding in Christ involve for you on a typical day? What is the condition of your personal “foliage”? Lush and green bearing much fruit? Or a bit droopy?

We do not produce fruit for ourselves but to serve others. How are you feeding others with your words (Proverbs 10:21) and works? Where do you serve yourself first and give others the leftovers?

Meditate on and memorize Psalm 119:9-11.

Pray that God would enlarge your heart and passion to love him, love others, and make disciples.

GROUP RESPONSE

In what ways does your family, small group, and Bible study reinforce the concept of abiding in Christ? Think about the areas where your group falls short. How can you take bold steps of faith to encourage and direct others in this fundamental principle in relationship with Christ.

What sacrifices might have to be made in order to abide in Christ as a group? In what ways might this require speaking truth in love, encouragement and a deeper connection with the members of your group?

REPRODUCE

In the mindful pursuit of abiding in Christ, look for ways to serve up that fruit in practical ways, in the workplace, the gym or any place you find yourself this week as there is always an opportunity to bless others.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- John 15:3-4

From the study:

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- James 1:22-25
- Hebrews 4:12
- Psalm 119:9-11
- Proverbs 10:21