

Abiding in Christ

Flourishing or Firewood

John 15:5-6

MAIN IDEAS

- It is impossible to produce anything of true value apart from Jesus
- Jesus guarantees you will produce fruit if you are connected to Him
- The fate of those never connected to the Vine.
- Evidences of connection to the Vine.

How do we know if we are abiding in Christ? Consider John 15:5, 1 John 2:6, 1 John 2:9-11, and 1 John 2:23-24.

What can a person do apart from Christ according to John 15:5? Does that fit with your experience? If not, what do you think Jesus is getting at here?

What does *wither* mean in John 15:6? What does it look like for a person to wither in this context?

Read Matthew 25:14-46.

- How are the faithful servants and sheep-nations like the branches that abide in Christ?
- How are the slothful servants and goat-nations like the branches that do not abide in Christ?

What were we created for according to Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 2:10, and 1 Peter 2:9?

What happens when created things do not live up to their purpose? Consider Luke 13:6-9.

How do we know if we are living up to our purpose?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

How do you feel about the unfruitful branches being burned? Why?

Read Luke 13:6-9 again. Where do you fit in the parable? If you don't think you fit in the parable, explain why.

Consider God's purposes for creating people. How are you fulfilling or not fulfilling these purposes?

Consider the scriptures discussed in the study. Which passage hit you hardest?

Take this passage and read it at least twice each day this week. Mull it over and pray about it. Ask God to implant it in your heart.

Abide in Christ every day this week. Watch for the fruit He produces in you.

GROUP RESPONSE

Consider your answers to the questions in the Personal Response section. In light of where you are right now, how can others best pray for you?

Gather around one another and pray for each other, now and throughout the week. If you need to, set a daily alarm to remind you.

The next time you meet, follow up with each other. Did you pray for one another? How did God answer those prayers?

REPRODUCE

Talk with someone about abiding in Christ. Do they abide in Christ? If so, how? Consider how their thoughts could improve your own walk with Christ. If they are receptive, share how you abide in Christ.

Ask others what they think our purpose in life is. If they are receptive, share your thoughts as well. You might also go on to discuss what happens to those who fulfill or fail to fulfill their purpose.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Matthew 13:24-30
- Matthew 13:36-41
- Matthew 13:47-50
- Matthew 25:1-13
- Matthew 25:14-30
- John 6:37
- John 13:26-27
- John 14:6
- John 15:5-6
- Romans 10:9
- 1 John 1:8
- 1 John 2:3-6
- 1 John 2:9-11
- 1 John 2:15-16
- 1 John 2:23
- 1 John 3:6
- 1 John 4:21
- 1 John 5:13

Additional verses from the study:

- 1 John 2:24
- Colossians 1:16
- Ephesians 2:10
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Luke 13:6-9
- Matthew 25:31-46