

Abide PART 3

John 15:4

MAIN TAKEAWAY

The fruit we produce is determined by what we are connected to. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. We don't produce the fruit God desires by trying harder or simply doing more religious activity. Fruit comes naturally when we abide in Christ.

Big Idea: As long as we abide in the vine (Christ), we will bring forth fruit that is pleasing to God.

KEY SCRIPTURES & TAKEAWAYS

John 15:1-8 KJV I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 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. ³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

- a. Jesus is about to die and He shows His disciples, through an analogy, what God expected of them.
- b. Jesus teaches that He is the vine and we are the branches. A branch cannot produce fruit on its own; it must remain connected to the vine.
- c. The evidence of a thriving relationship with Jesus is **fruit**. In this passage, we see a progression from fruit, to more fruit, to much fruit. God desires growth in our lives, and that growth comes from abiding in Christ.

Characteristics Of Fruit

1. Fruit always bears the character of which tree it is part of.
 - a. The character of the vine determines the nature of the fruit and the fruit that God is looking for in us is the character of Christ.

- b. Whatever you're connected to, determines the fruit you will bear. If you want your fruit to change, change who you're connected to.
- 2. Fruit is always visible.
 - a. People should see our good fruit, our love, kindness and honor. People should be able to know you're connected to Jesus.
- 3. Fruit always exists for someone else.
 - a. It should be for the benefit of others, not all about us.
 - b. Fruit that eats itself is rotting and dysfunctional.
- 4. Fruit always reproduces itself.
 - a. Proverbs 11:30
 - b. If we're truly connected to Jesus, we will reproduce fruit naturally.
 - c. We should be sharing with others, reaching the lost and it should come naturally when we're truly connected to Him.

How Do We Abide:

- 1. Put God's Word at the center of your life.
 - a. **John 14:23 KJV** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
 - b. Our circumstances, culture, media, or other voices should not determine what we believe or value. We are to treasure the Word, use it as a blueprint for our life.
- 2. Obey His Word
 - a. **John 15:10 KJV** 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.
 - b. It's not just about knowing God's Word but doing it and obeying.
- 3. Spend time with Him
 - a. Abide in Greek is *meno* and it means to hang out, loiter, remain, be constantly present, to linger.
 - b. To bear the fruit we need to bear, we need to immerse ourselves, go 100% and spend more time with Jesus.

REFLECT & REVISIT

This week go back **John 15:4** this week and ask yourself: **Am I fully abiding in Jesus, or am I only visiting Him?** To abide means to remain, linger, and have unbroken fellowship. Make an intentional decision this week to spend time with Jesus, put His Word at the center of your life, and obey what He is asking you to do. Invite Him into your work, your decisions, your relationships, and the everyday details of your life.