

**Abiding**  
(John 15:1-8)

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The idea of abiding is an important subject in the New Testament.
2. Abiding is a English translation of the Greek word **μένω** (menō).
  - A. **Thayer** – to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): — abide, continue, dwell, endure, remain, stand, tarry (for).
  - B. **Mirriam-Webster** – to bear patiently; to endure without yielding 2) to wait for; 3) to accept without objection 4) to remain stable or fixed in a state; 5) to continue in a place
  - C. **NASB** – continue, stay, remain, live, abide, to stand (firm), endure/ing, wait/await, etc.
3. This word is used several times in the text that was just read and you can begin to see its importance there. But, it is also used many time other times in passages relating to:
  - A. Salvation
  - B. Abiding in salvation
  - C. The benefits of abiding
4. These are what I want to consider today that you might think about where you abide, where you choose to remain, or stand, in your life and how it relates to God’s will and the reward He promises.

**BODY:**

**I. Salvation and abiding:**

- A. Those who abide in Christ have spiritual life, or salvation (John 15:1-8 – “**I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.** <sup>2</sup> **Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.** <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> **Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.** <sup>5</sup> **I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.** <sup>6</sup> **If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.** <sup>7</sup> **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.** <sup>8</sup> **My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”).**
1. Everything relating to salvation is connected to Jesus—the true vine—and abiding in him.
  - a. Abiding in Christ is the means producing spiritual fruit (15:4-5).
    - i. That is important because the branches that **remain** on the vine, those not cut from the vine by the Father, are the ones that bear fruit (15:1-2).
    - ii. Abiding in Christ means producing fruit, and producing fruit is required to abide!
  - b. Abiding in Christ means spiritual life (15:6).
    - i. As a branch cut from a vine withers and dies, so does a soul separated from Jesus.
    - ii. And in time those branches are gathered by God and cast into Hell’s eternal fire!
    - iii. So, it is vital that we continue to abide in Christ by bearing fruit to God.
  - c. There is **no ultimate value in proximity**—in being near to the things of Christ, near those who are in Christ, near the teaching of Christ, without choosing to be **in Christ!**
2. Because life is in Christ, we must not despise God’s pruning (15:2), whether it is through rebuke, trial, or tribulation, seeing that its design is to cut away the excess, that which detracts from spiritual growth, so that our focus might be on spiritual fruit and eternal life.
- B. Christ’s words bring difficult questions with eternal ramifications for the branches.
  1. The questions:
    - a. What fruit—what *much* fruit—am I producing for the Lord (15:5)?
    - b. Does the fruit in my life truly glorify God (15:8)?
    - c. Does the fruit in my life provide proof that I am Jesus’ disciple (15:8)?
  2. Though these are difficult questions and I know we do not earn our way to heaven by the deeds we do, Jesus’ words here are surely reason to examine our spiritual fruit, seeing that affects our abiding in Christ, which affects our eternal salvation.

## II. Abiding in Christ and salvation requires...

- A. Believing in Jesus and obeying Him (John 3:36 – “He who **believes in the Son** has eternal life; but he **who does not obey the Son** will not see life, but the **wrath of God abides on him.**”).
1. **Belief** means life, while **disobedience** means **death** and **abiding in God’s wrath**.
  2. That second part is not the wording we expect. We expect “does not believe.”
    - a. Instead, Jesus shows that saving faith, that results in life, is faith that obeys!
    - b. For, the opposite of saving faith is *lack of obedience!* So, those who lack faith that obeys **abide in death** and **God’s wrath**.
    - c. Therefore, to abide in life, one must have faith enough to obey.
- B. **Continuing in Christ’s word and obeying it.**
1. We must **continue** in Christ’s word (Jn. 8:31-32 – “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “**If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will **make you free.**”).
    - a. A disciple is a follower, one who seeks their master’s will to guide their way through life.
    - b. **Continuing in Christ’s word is how...**
      - i. We know we are His disciples.
      - ii. We know the truth and be made free.
  2. We must **abide in the teaching** of Christ (2 John 8-11 – “Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who goes too far and **does not abide in the teaching of Christ**, does not have God; the one who **abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.** <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; <sup>11</sup> for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”).
    - a. We must abide, remain, or continue in the teaching of Christ to have God in our lives (1 John 2:24 – “As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”).
    - b. Christians who do not do so **do not have God and lose their salvation** (8)!
    - c. Abiding in truth is so important that we are told to have nothing to do with anyone who brings a different doctrine, seeing that would be to “participate in his **evil deeds**”!
  3. We must keep Christ’s commandments (1 Jn. 3:23-24 – “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who **keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.** We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”).
    - a. The religious world might cry “legalism” or “trying to earn salvation.”
    - b. But to downplay, or even reject, the necessity of obeying Jesus’ commandments is to assure that Christ will not abide in you nor you in Him.
- C. That we **not sin** (1 John 3:6-10 – “**No one who abides in Him sins**; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”).
1. Sin is not an option. It is not an acceptable choice. It is not what Christians do.
  2. The character of those who abide in Christ is righteousness exemplified in Christ, seeing the seed of Christ abides in the saved.
  3. Where we abide, where we stand, becomes obvious by the righteousness and love expressed in our lives.
- D. **Loving one another** (1 John 4:7-12 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not

know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us**, and His love is perfected in us.”).

1. True love...

- a. Comes from God and those who truly love are born of God and know Him.
- b. Is active. It seeks expression even to those who might not deserve or return it, just as Jesus' actions toward us expressed God's love despite our unworthiness.

2. When we show true love to others:

- a. God's love is **perfected** in us—we truly become like Him.
- b. Though no one has seen God, our love **manifests God to the world**, being one, if not the, strongest evidence God has in this world!
- c. We are assured that **God abides in us**.

E. That we **eat His flesh and drink His blood** (Jn. 6:54-56 – “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me, and I in him**.”).

1. Jesus knew the Law and its ban on eating blood or even meat with the blood still in it, not to mention cannibalism, but still makes this startling statement.
  - a. Such words were offensive to the Jews, which seems to be Jesus' intent.
  - b. For, they had shown themselves unconcerned with deeper truth, unable to see the point of His miracles, and were only concerned about free food Jesus could provide.
2. So, Jesus turns the tables on those seeking physical bread.
  - a. Jesus says they must ingest his flesh and blood that they might **abide** in Him and He in them.
  - b. As food is absorbed into our bodies and becomes part of us, Jesus must become part of the believer, and the believer will become one with Jesus.
  - c. Only when we are willing to receive Jesus as the true, life-giving bread from heaven will Christ **abide** in us and give us **eternal life**.

### III. Results of abiding:

- A. Abiding in Jesus means awaiting Christ's coming with confidence (1 John 2:28-29 – “Now, little children, **abide in Him**, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”).
- B. Abiding in Jesus' commandments and love means living life in full joy (John 15:9-11 – “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that **your joy may be made full**.”).
- C. Abiding in Jesus and His word means God answers our prayers.
  1. Jn. 15:7 – “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”
  2. 1 John 3:21-22 – “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.”
- D. In obedience means **living** or abiding (same word) forever—eternal life (1 John 2:17 – “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God **lives** forever.”).

### CONCLUSION:

1. Abiding, continuing, remaining, and living in Christ, His word, and His love are critical to our happiness here and our hope of eternal life in the future.
2. God would have you abide with Him now so that after this life you will with Him in eternal joy!
3. Will you choose to do so today? Will you respond to the gospel in F-R-C-BP and LF?