

John 15:4-11

“Abiding In Jesus”

I. The template of abiding

A. Abide mentioned 10x's in v.4-10; “remain” carrying the same connotation mentioned twice in v.11&16 = a dozen times in 9 verses.

- 1) Abide (Gr. meno) – to remain; to stay in constant contact or fellowship with (Ps. 91:1); a ***continual*** action = to ***continue*** abiding; not for a season or most of the time...it ***never*** stops.
- 2) Where does Jesus tell us we are to abide/remain?
 - a) V.4-7 – in Himself
 - b) V.7 – in His word(s)
 - c) V.9-10 – in His love

II. The obstacles to abiding

A. *Why don't we continue to remain in His presence, His word and His love? What leads us away from where we're supposed to remain?*

- 1) Our flesh; our opinions; our emotions.
 - a) Ps. 95:6-11; 119:67; Prov. 10:17; Is. 53:6; 1 John 2:14-17.

III. The evidence & purpose of abiding

A. V.4-6 – Abiding in Jesus...***enables/empowers us to produce fruit.***

- 1) Just like a branch becomes dead, lifeless and useless when separated from the vine/its source of life, the same happens to us spiritually when separated from Christ. **We cannot produce fruit apart from an active relationship with Jesus Christ!**
 - a) *“You profess that you have been saved through faith in the Lord Jesus? Is the fruit of the Spirit seen in your life? If the contrary to these is manifest, then you may be sure of this: that even*

though you have trusted Christ for salvation, you are not living in fellowship with God.” – H.A. Ironside

- 2) ***Apart from God, we can do nothing***: overcome sin; defeat our enemy; raise a Godly family; reap God’s blessings; obtain true joy, peace, purpose or victory; preach a sermon – Ps. 127:1.
- 3) ***BUT, with God, what can we do???*** – Phil. 4:13 (v.1-12); Rom. 8:37.
- 4) *When we don’t abide/remain in Jesus, that means we’re abiding/remaining in our flesh* – Rom. 8:1-8.

B. V.7 – Abiding in God’s word(s)...aligns us with God’s will; i.e. answered prayer – 1 John 3:22; 5:14; James 1:22, 25

1) What are God’s words?

- a) Ps. 119:103 – sweeter than honey
- b) Ps. 119:105 – a guiding light
- c) John 6:63,68 –spirit and life
- d) Heb. 4:12 – a weapon
- e) 2 Sam. 7:28 – truth
- f) 2 Cor. 1:20 – yes and amen
- g) John 8:31-32 – freeing/liberating.

i) *So when we **don’t** abide in God’s words, we abide in bitterness, darkness, death, vulnerability, lies, uncertainty & bondage* – John 12:47-50; Rom. 6:16-23.

ii) *Which means we’re void of the freedom & confidence to petition God* – Job 35:13; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; John 9:31.

C. V.9-11 – Abiding in God’s love...

- 1) Produces obedience *to* God – 14:15;
- 2) Which draws the pleasure & approval *of* God – Deut. 28:1-2; 30:19; Is. 1:19;
- 3) Which aligns us *with* the heart of God – Matt. 3:17;
- 4) Which spawns the permanent joy of God knowing we have pleased our Master – Matt. 6:24; Gal. 1:10; Col. 3:23; 1 Thess. 2:4.

a) First 2 fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Gal. 5:22 = love and joy; the love of God produces the joy of God which comes from abiding in Christ Himself = we'll never produce the fruit of Christ's love if we're not abiding in Jesus Himself.

i.) *If we're not abiding in God's love, that means we're abiding in human hatred.*

ii.) *If we're abiding in human hatred, then the love of Jesus isn't in us – 1 John 3:10-15; 4:7-11.*