

Abiding in Christ and He in Us

John 15:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Jesus used the familiar grape vine to illustrate the close fellowship that must exist between Him and his disciples. He is the vine we are the branches. The relationship is so close that it can be said that each is abiding or dwelling in the other - "abide in me and I in you." (v. 4). Paul said, "Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). Without this vital connection we cannot survive and function spiritually. But, what does it mean to abide in Him and He in us? How can we be in Christ and he at the same time He be in us?
- B. We hope that a close study of our Lord's illustration will help us understand the benefits, the means, and the alternative to abiding in Him and He in us:

Discussion:

I. **The Benefits of This Abiding.**

- A. He continually purges or cleanses or purifies us (vv. 2-3).
 - 1. By application of His word (v. 3; 1 Pet 1:22)
 - 2. By walking in the light and confessing our sins (1 John 1:7-9).
 - 3. By the trials of a Christian (1 Pet. 1:6,7).
- B. He gives us the ability to bear fruit (vv. 4, 5).
 - 1. We are His workmanship created unto good works (Eph. 2:10).
 - 2. We can do "all things" through Him (Phil. 3:12).
- C. He answers our prayers (v. 7).
 - 1. If the asking is according to his will (1 John 5:14).
 - 2. If the desired answer is according to his will.

II. **The Means of This Abiding.**

- A. He abides in us as his word abides in us.
 - 1. Notice the substitution of "my words" for "I" (vv. 4, 5, 7).
 - 2. Likewise, we abide in Him as we "abide" in His word (John 8:31 ASV, NKJ).
 - 3. Same is true of the spirit abiding or dwelling in us (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18, 19).
- B. He continues to abide in us only if we bear fruit (v. 2).
 - 1. He gives us the ability to bear fruit.
 - 2. If we do not use that ability we will be cut off.

III. **The Alternative to This Abiding.**

- A. We either abide and bear fruit or not be his disciples (v. 8).
- B. We can either abide and bear fruit or be cast away, gathered up and burned (vv. 2, 6).
 - 1. Possible for a Christian to be cast forth – fall away.
 - 2. Possible to be grafted in again before the burning (cf. Rom. 11:23; Jas. 5:19, 20).

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot abide him unless we are first in Him. We are baptized into Him (Gal. 3:26, 27).
- B. We will abide in Him and He in us as long as we continue to let his word abide in us and we abide in his word through obedience to it. Otherwise we will be cast forth as a fruitless branch and be lost.