

# **Abiding in Christ**

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## **I. Introduction.**

- A. Men do not need to worry about all the character things, because God has taken the responsibility for bearing fruit in men's lives. (I Corinthians 13, Galatians 5)
- B. The Father is a gardener, believers are the branches, and Jesus is the vine.
- C. Believers must be rightly related to the vine.
- D. Text: John 15.

## **II. Branches that do not bear fruit are "propped up" not cut off.**

- A. God is committed to making people bear fruit.
- B. God removes all the things that keep people from bearing fruit because He is after as much fruit as possible.
- C. Our responsibility is not to bear fruit—it is to be cleansed by God's Word.

## **III. No branch can bear fruit by itself—it must be connected to the vine.**

- A. Focusing on unbroken fellowship with the heavenly Father allows us to bear fruit.
- B. If a person abides in Christ, one will bear fruit in time—it is a matter of trust not activity.
- C. Bearing fruit is about relationship, not doing all the right things.
- D. There is life-giving power in relationships.

## **IV. The life apart from the vine is dry.**

- A. The Christian life is not rededication—it is surrender.
- B. God's Word is the channel by which we relate to Christ.
- C. Christianity is not about being good—it is about allowing Christ to change us.

## **V. Summary.**

- A. Accept that apart from Christ one cannot bear lasting fruit.
- B. Accept that Christ has made His life available to you.
- C. Give attention to God daily.

D. Develop the motto I cannot but He can.

**Application questions:**

1. What is “fruit” in John 15? What are some examples?

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2. How does God demonstrate His love for fruit?

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3. What does it look like to have a relationship with Christ? How can you make your relationship with Him more consistent and meaningful? Explain.

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