



Week 5

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: Abiding in Christ

Sermon Text: John 15:1-8

Group Week of: February 5, 2023

Sermon Date: February 12, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Israel as the Vineyard – Isaiah 5:1-7
Day 2	True Fruit – Matthew 7:15-20
Day 3	Abiding and Fruit – Psalm 1
Day 4	Abiding in Christ – John 6:32-59
Day 5	Chosen to be Fruitful – John 15:9-17

The Text

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message that Jesus is speaking to the disciples (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) What does it mean to abide in Christ?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Christ, Himself, needed to always be connected to the Father. What practices do we see in Jesus' life to ensure that He and the Father are always one?

- 2) In this passage, Jesus presents God the Father as the "gardener." This means that for those in Christ, God the Father is always working to help us be more fruitful in Christ. Do you see your life—its ups and downs—as God's means of making you more fruitful? If yes, how has this helped you? If no, what do you think God is generally doing in your life and why?

- 3) Jesus tells His disciples that they are "already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." This echoes something that Jesus had already spoken in John 13:10 when he washed the disciples' feet. Do you think Jesus is talking primarily about salvation or about growing in holiness and sanctification in these verses? Be sure to explain the *why* behind your answer.

- 4) What do you *abide in* on a daily basis? (Remember that while we know we are supposed to abide in Christ, the places where we spend our time, our resources, and invest our emotions are the true places we abide).

- 5) One thing that makes abiding in Christ difficult is that He isn't physically present like most of the things we abide in on a daily basis. What are the means God has provided for us to abide in Christ? List them out. Then, write down how much time you spend each day engaged in those means.

- 6) When we want to do things for the Lord, we tend to get busy *doing*. But Jesus tells us that apart from abiding in Christ, we can do nothing. As disciples of Jesus who want to produce fruit, how can we ensure we are spending the time needed to abide in Christ when our lives tend to be so busy?

- 7) Jesus makes an unbelievable promise in verse 7—"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." How does this fit together with prayers that never seem to get answered?

- 8) What do you need to start doing this week to abide with Christ more?