



FOLLOWING JESUS

Week 1: Narrative & Discipleship
 Week 2: An Iceberg & Spiritual Formation
Week 3: Abiding & the Role of the Spirit
 Week 4: It's a Journey
 Week 5: Walking in "The Way" & Spiritual Disciplines
 Week 6: Developing a Rule of Life

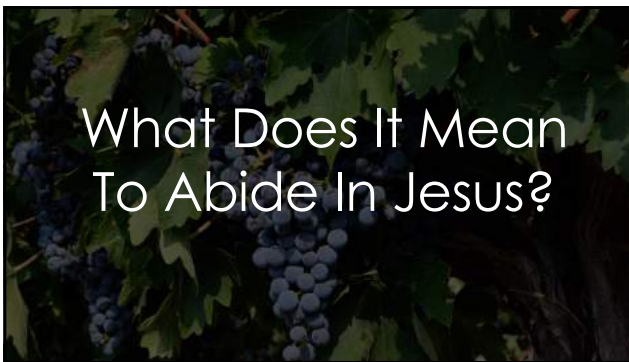
4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

TABLE DISCUSSION



What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

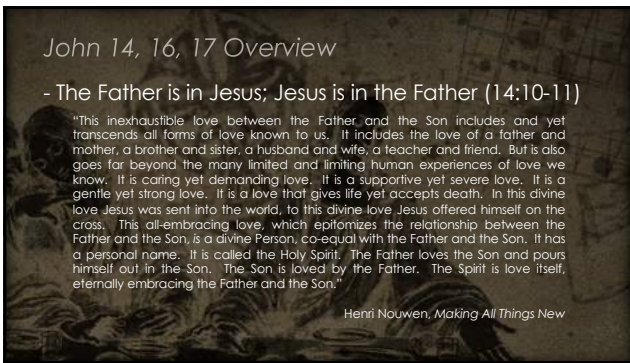


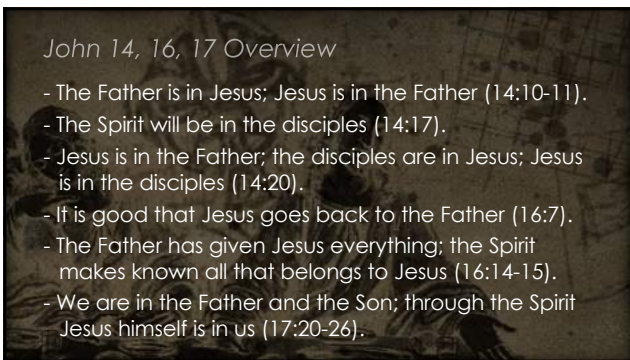
What Does It Mean To Abide In Jesus?

Common Misconceptions

1. Abide = Read the Bible
2. Abide = Try and do what the Bible says.
3. Abide = Moral behavior (emphasis on avoiding sin).
4. Abide = Help others read the Bible.
5. Abide = Help others do what the Bible says.
6. Abide = Help others behave morally.

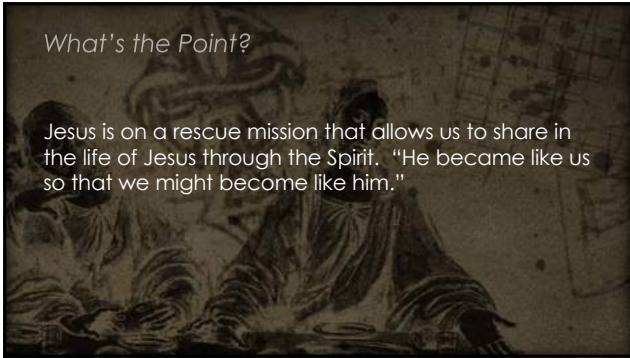






What's the Point?

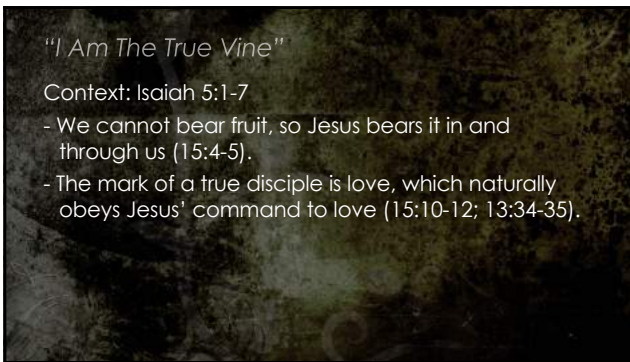
Jesus is on a rescue mission that allows us to share in the life of Jesus through the Spirit. "He became like us so that we might become like him."



"I Am The True Vine"

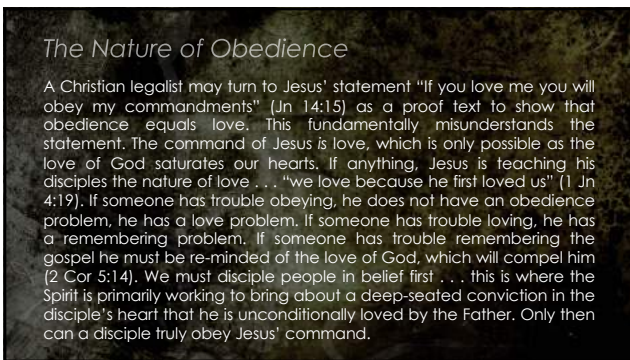
Context: Isaiah 5:1-7

- We cannot bear fruit, so Jesus bears it in and through us (15:4-5).
- The mark of a true disciple is love, which naturally obeys Jesus' command to love (15:10-12; 13:34-35).



The Nature of Obedience

A Christian legalist may turn to Jesus' statement "If you love me you will obey my commandments" (Jn 14:15) as a proof text to show that obedience equals love. This fundamentally misunderstands the statement. The command of Jesus is love, which is only possible as the love of God saturates our hearts. If anything, Jesus is teaching his disciples the nature of love . . . "we love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19). If someone has trouble obeying, he does not have an obedience problem, he has a love problem. If someone has trouble loving, he has a remembering problem. If someone has trouble remembering the gospel he must be re-minded of the love of God, which will compel him (2 Cor 5:14). We must disciple people in belief first . . . this is where the Spirit is primarily working to bring about a deep-seated conviction in the disciple's heart that he is unconditionally loved by the Father. Only then can a disciple truly obey Jesus' command.



"I Am The True Vine"

Context: Isaiah 5:1-7

- We cannot bear fruit, so Jesus bears it in and through us (15:4-5).
- The mark of a true disciple is love, which naturally obeys Jesus' command to love (15:10-12; 13:34-35).
- The fruit of the Spirit's presence in the true disciple's life is love (Gal 5:22; Rom 5:5; 1 Jn 4:7-19).

"I Am The True Vine"

23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

- 1 John 3

"Abide In Me"

- Abiding is first and foremost the Spirit's work (Jer 31:31; Ezek 36:26; Gal 3:3; Phil 2:13, 3:12; Col 1:29; Ti 3:5).

The Spirit is both the way to Christ and the way to maturity in Christ.

"Abide In Me"

- Abiding is first and foremost the Spirit's work (Jer 31:31; Ezek 36:26; Gal 3:3; Phil 2:13, 3:12; Col 1:29; Ti 3:5).
- The call to abide is not a call to do something but to be with someone, namely Christ himself; to live IN him as he is in the Father (15:4-5, 7, 9-10).

"My acts of obedience are merely opportunities of presenting myself to the Spirit who transforms me into the image of Jesus."

Dr. John Coe

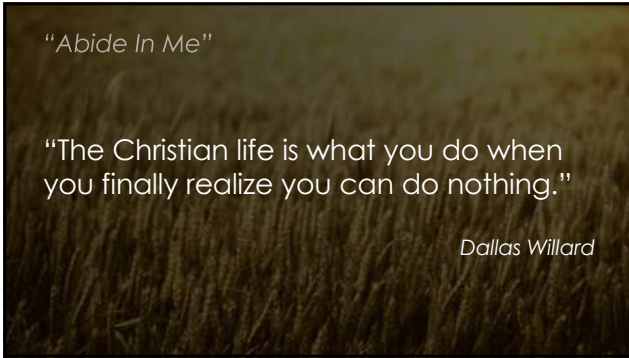
"Abide In Me"

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

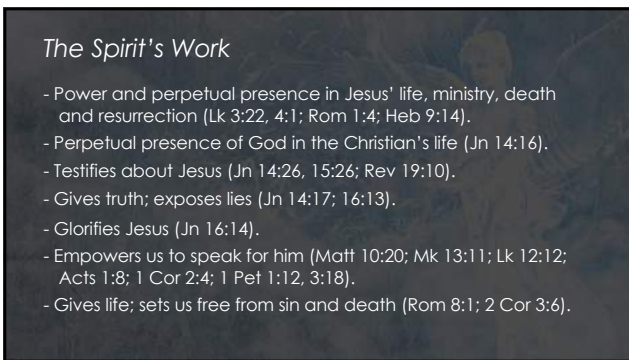
- 2 Cor 3:18

"Abide In Me"

- Abiding is first and foremost the Spirit's work (Jer 31:31; Ezek 36:26; Gal 3:3; Phil 2:13, 3:12; Col 1:29; Ti 3:5).
- The call to abide is not a call to do something but to be with someone, namely Christ himself; to live IN him as he is in the Father (15:4-5, 7, 9-10).
- Abiding occurs as we realize we are powerless and can do nothing (2 Cor 12:9-10; Phil 3:9).







The Spirit's Work

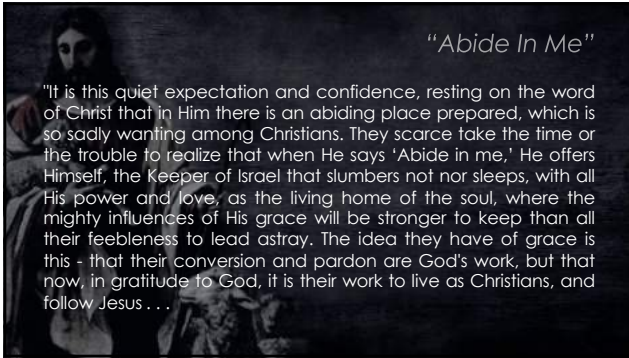
- Gives life and peace (Jn 14: 27; Rom 8:6).
- Puts to death the flesh (Rom 8:13).
- Adopts us (Rom 8:15).
- Prays / intercedes for us (Rom 8:26).
- Washes, sanctifies, justifies us (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Thess 2:13; Ti 3:5; 1 Pet 1:2)
- Indwells us (1 Cor 6:19; Eph 2:22).
- Gives wisdom and knowledge (1 Cor 12:8; Col 1:9).
- Seals our hearts as sons of God (2 Cor 1:22, 5:5; Gal 4:6; Eph 1:13).

The Spirit's Work

- Gives freedom (2 Cor 3:17).
- Transforms us into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18).
- Disarms the desires of the flesh (Gal 5:16).
- Bears fruit in us (Gal 5:22-23).
- Is our access to the Father (Eph 2:18).
- Gives power, love and self-discipline (2 Tim 1:7).

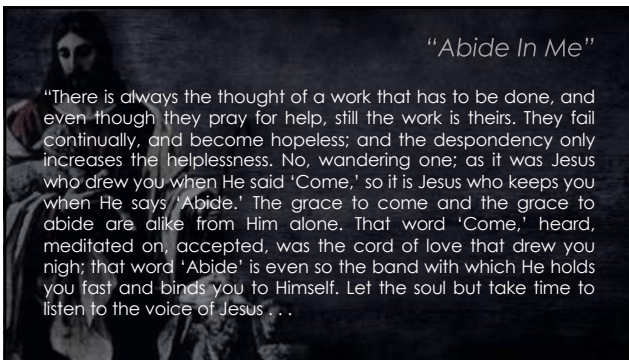
The Spirit's Work

- S // Seals the Believer**
- P // Points to Christ**
- I // Indwells Believers**
- R // Reveals Righteousness**
- I // Inspires Faithfulness**
- T // Third in Trinity**



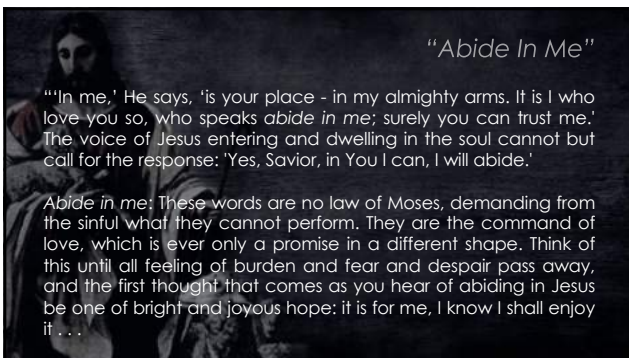
"Abide In Me"

"It is this quiet expectation and confidence, resting on the word of Christ that in Him there is an abiding place prepared, which is so sadly wanting among Christians. They scarce take the time or the trouble to realize that when He says 'Abide in me,' He offers Himself, the Keeper of Israel that slumbers not nor sleeps, with all His power and love, as the living home of the soul, where the mighty influences of His grace will be stronger to keep than all their feebleness to lead astray. The idea they have of grace is this - that their conversion and pardon are God's work, but that now, in gratitude to God, it is their work to live as Christians, and follow Jesus . . .



"Abide In Me"

"There is always the thought of a work that has to be done, and even though they pray for help, still the work is theirs. They fail continually, and become hopeless; and the despondency only increases the helplessness. No, wandering one; as it was Jesus who drew you when He said 'Come,' so it is Jesus who keeps you when He says 'Abide.' The grace to come and the grace to abide are alike from Him alone. That word 'Come,' heard, meditated on, accepted, was the cord of love that drew you nigh; that word 'Abide' is even so the band with which He holds you fast and binds you to Himself. Let the soul but take time to listen to the voice of Jesus . . .



"Abide In Me"

"'In me,' He says, 'is your place - in my almighty arms. It is I who love you so, who speaks *abide in me*; surely you can trust me.' The voice of Jesus entering and dwelling in the soul cannot but call for the response: 'Yes, Savior, in You I can, I will abide.'

Abide in me; These words are no law of Moses, demanding from the sinful what they cannot perform. They are the command of love, which is ever only a promise in a different shape. Think of this until all feeling of burden and fear and despair pass away, and the first thought that comes as you hear of abiding in Jesus be one of bright and joyous hope: it is for me, I know I shall enjoy it . . .

