

THE FRUIT, THE BRANCHES AND THE FIRE

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Christ abiding in me= salvation

Me abiding in Christ= service

Text John 15:1 – 8

What does it mean to 'abide in Christ'?

Answer: To "abide in Christ" is to **live, continue, or remain where you have been placed**; so, to abide in Christ is to **live in Him or to walk with Him**. When a person is saved, he or she is described as being "in Christ or Christ abiding in me" (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17), held secure in a permanent Father and Son Relationship (John 10:28–29).

1. The Vine

a. Vs. 1 *"I am the true vine"*

b. This is the last of the seven "I, am(s)"

"I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world, I am the door, I am the good shepherd, I am the resurrection and the life, I am the way the truth and the life, and I am the true vine."

2. The Caretaker

Vs. 1 *"my father is the husbandman."* This is one that plows and cultivates. It was his Father, God, that cared for the branches. It describes Jesus' disciples as branches of himself, who is described as the "true **vine**."

3. The Branches

a. Vs. 2 Two kinds of branches

i. Fruit bearing

1) What does the caretaker do to the fruit bearing branches?

"Every branch that bears fruit, he purgeth it."

2) Why does he purgeth it?

"That it may bring forth more fruit."

3) How does he purge the branch that abides in the vine?

Vs. 3 *"now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."*

Purgeth is to keep you clean from filth and impurities. Ephesians 5: 25, 26

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

ii. Non-Fruit bearing Vs. 4

What does the caretaker do to the branches that do not bear fruit?

Vs. 2 *"every branch in me that bear if not fruit he taketh away"*

b. Responsibility of the branches Vs. 4

i. To abide in the vine is mentioned seven times

ii. To abide is a choice we make for service:

iii. **1 John 2:28 (KJV)** *And now, little children, **abide in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming.*

4. The Fruit Vs. 4-5

a. Results of abiding (Notice three things)

First There are different degrees of fruit-bearing
“fruit vs 2...more fruit vs. 2...much fruit vs. 8

Second When we bear fruit, God is glorified vs. 8

WHAT IS FRUIT?

- 1) Fruit of a false prophet is a false message Matt. 7
- 2) Fruit of the Holy Spirit is Gal. 5:22-23
- 3) Fruit of the righteous is Heb. 12
- 4) Fruit of our lips is Heb. 13

However; I believe the fruit of John 15 is the results of winning souls. Consider Matt. 13:23, *“... Seed sown on good ground brought forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some 60, and some 100.”*

Third Answered prayer vs.7

I John 5:14-15

John 15:16

b. Results of not abiding

- i. The loss of one’s usefulness *“... For without me you can do nothing.”* Vs. 5
- ii. The loss of spiritual power *“... He is cast forth as a branch* Vs. 6
- iii. The loss of one’s testimony *“... Men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”* Vs. 6

Notice: This is what men do; it doesn’t say the Lord does to us.
Consider Matt. 5:13 *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? **It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”***

iv. It CANNOT refer to a loss of salvation. (It would be a reversal of Grace)

Three reasons why;

- 1) The text is speaking of service not salvation
Vs. 8, *“... So shall you be my **disciples.**”*
- 2) To abide is to remain in communion with Christ not union with Christ
 - a. Union with Christ produces salvation
 - b. Communion with Christ produces fellowship
- 3) Our salvation depends on Christ abiding in us
 - a. John 14:16
 - b. Heb. 13:5, *“... For he had said, I will never leave thee, nor for sake thee.”*

The gospel in John 3:16 does not tell us to abide or win souls for Eternal Life