

BEING WITH JESUS

• JOHN 15:1-11 •



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1- **Being** with Jesus starts with a **relationship**. (v.1-3)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

"By introducing Himself as the true vine, Jesus is identifying Himself as the true fruitful Israel. This is a claim of staggering egocentricity. It implies that all other religions are false - only Jesus is the true vine. It suggests that He, at last, will be able to accomplish all that God's people have failed to achieve throughout the Old Testament. And it also suggests that a person can only enjoy the status of being part of God's true fruitful people by being joined to Jesus."

-John Commentary, by St. Helen's Bishopsgate (pg.178)

Defining the characters:

- **Vinedresser = God the Father** / *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser."*
- **True Vine = Jesus**
- **Branches = Followers of Jesus**
- **Fruit = our work for God through obedience and the Holy Spirit**

2- Everything should flow out from that **relationship**. (v. 4-6)

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. 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. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

- **ABIDE**

“All of us are abiding. The question is, ‘What are you abiding in?’ All of us have a source we are rooted in, a kind of default setting we return to. An emotional home. It’s where our minds go when they’re not busy with tasks, where our feelings go when we need solace, where our bodies go when we have free time, and where our money goes after we pay the bills. We will make our home somewhere, the question is, “Where”? And this matters, because whatever we abide in will determine the fruit of our lives, for good or for ill.”

-John Mark Comer, Practicing the Way, pg. 37-38

- **We all abide in something; the question is: Is it Jesus?**
- **The Fruits of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:22-23 — *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”*

“Any doing on our part will only be as deep as our being. To do without being might look the same to an outsider, but the quality of our lives is drastically different. To do without being disconnects our activity from the source of life and love: God’s life and love.”

-Rich Villodas, The Deeply Formed Life (pg. 174)

3- We are meant to enjoy being with Jesus forever. (v. 7-11)

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Practical ways of to enjoy being with Jesus:

- **Prayer and alignment with His will.**

“...ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

- **Treasure His Word**

“....my words abide in you.”

- **Receive and share His love**

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.”

- **Enjoy the life we have now and anticipate Heaven.**

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

How can you be more intentional to be with Jesus this week?

