The True Vine

Union with Christ through the Holy Spirit is one of the highest privileges of the Christian. In John 15, our union with Christ is expressed by the phrase “abide in.” To abide in a place means to stay there and not leave. False believers appear to be joined to Christ for a time, but their end is rejection and burning.

**Jesus commands us to abide in Him.**

**1. When you begin to abide in Christ—**

A. You immediately *share* in His life

B. You begin to *produce* His fruit

Fruit of a Christ-like *character*

Matthew 3:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:9-11

Fruit for Christ’s *church* (v. 16)

**2. As you continue to abide in Christ, He gives you more**

A. More *fruitfulness*

B. More e*ffective prayers*

C. More of *Christ’s love*

D. More of *Christ’s joy*

E. More *glory to God*

**3. You can abide more fully in Christ by—**

A. Submitting to the *Father’s pruning*

B. Filling your heart with *Christ’s words*

C. Obeying *Christ’s commandments*

vv. 10, 12, 17

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Israel was a faithless, fruitless vine, suitable only for burning (Psalm 80:8-19; Ezekiel 15:1-8; 19:10-14). Christ is the true, faithful vine (John 15:1). This is one of many ways in which Christ does perfectly what Israel and its leaders failed to do. Can you think of some others?

3. The fruit Christ desires to produce in our lives includes obedience to His commands. On the other hand, obedience is the way we become more fruitful. How do these to aspects of our obedience fit together? See Philippians 2:12-16; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Hebrews 13:20-21.

4. The Bible mentions several conditions for answered prayer. What are some of these? How does abiding in Christ serve as an appropriate summary for all of them?

**The True Vine** (John K. LaShell—tune, Darwall)

Jesus, Thou one true Vine,

I rest my soul in Thee.

Oh, fill me with Thy life

That I may fruitful be,

And know the joy of answered prayer

And glory giv’n to Thee alone.

Oh, cleanse me through Thy word;

Subdue my wayward will

To follow Thy commands

And love Thee better still,

And know the joy of answered prayer

And glory giv’n to Thee alone.

The harvest Thou dost seek,

I pray that Thou wilt bring,

Of ransomed souls to rise

And praise Thee as their King,

And know the joy of answered prayer

And glory giv’n to Thee alone.