

I am the Vine John 15:1-11 I AM Series

Today we are in our Final study looking at the I AM statements of Jesus in John's gospel.

A) 7 AMAZING statements that Jesus made about Himself that – Give answers to life's deepest longings

B) **Longing to fill the Void** – John 6 – I am the Bread of life.

1) **Longing to be rid of my guilt** – be forgiven – John 8 I am the Light of the World.

C) **Longing to belong and be accepted** – John 10 – I am the door.

D) **The Longing for identity** – John 10 – I Am the good Shepherd.

1) **Longing to have an assurance in death** – John 11 – I Am the Resurrection and the Life.

E) **Longing for heaven:** John 14 – I Am the way the truth and the Life.

Today one of the biggest longings – **The Longing To know what is the purpose of my Life?**

A) The book the purpose driven life by Pastor Rick Warren has sold – 32 million **copies world wide.**

B) It remains the bestselling hardcover non-fiction book in history

1) It is the second most translated book after the Bible.

Why was that book so popular with People across the world?

A) Answer: There is a deep seeded longing in the heart of every human being – to Know **WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.**

B) In our text today: Jesus answers that question for us in V.8 - **Our purpose is to glorify God.**

C) Understanding that we exist primarily to glorify God!

1) That is the reason we are on planet earth.

D) **God doesn't exist for our Glory** – We exist to bring Him glory.

1) Not that God wants us to be miserable slaves

E) But to come to discover that we are going to be the most fulfilled when we are doing what He has called us to.

Understanding this – Brings new meaning to what you do in your profession, your calling

A) And as the seasons of life Change for you – life **REMAINS FULL** – when we realize this:

B) My purpose on this planet is to bring Glory to God!

C) In our passage today- Jesus tells us how we can do that – and what that is going to look like –

The Picture Jesus uses to illustrate this all important truth is that of a Vineyard - Read John 15:1-11

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 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.

11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

I am the true Vine You are the branches!

A) Picture of union – Relationship

B) If you were to ask the average American – to describe Christianity – very few – would use that Definition

C) Even a lot of Christians miss – this very important aspect of the Christian life –

1) We were redeemed to live in relationship with Jesus.

D) By using this picture of the Vine and the branches Jesus is painting a picture of a Vital Union.

Just as the branch receives all of its vital nutrients from the Vine

A) So too our health and Vitality Spiritually is connected to Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

The importance of Abiding:

A) Abide = to be connected to, continue with, to settle into.

B) It is the picture of constancy in our relationship with Jesus. Unbroken fellowship and communion

1) Opposite of being up and down or IN AND OUT

C) It is the opposite of being wishy-washy in our commitment

D) Abide is Mentioned in **V. 4,5,6,7,9,10**

So from the text we can see the importance of Abiding! – That is clear.

A) But How do we do it? – What does it look like practically.

B) I can see this emphasis on abiding – and determine – **I am going to be a great abider.**

1) The best – I am going to really do this – and step out and fall flat on my face – Don't know How.

C) We have the answer to what this looks like in V.7 and in V.10

How do we abide?

A) V.7 We Know the Word.

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Abiding in Jesus starts with Knowing the word.

A) As followers of Jesus – The word of God should be the single most influential thing in our lives.

B) We should be committed to study it and to know it from Genesis to Revelation.

1) So deep so rich – so full – We can literally spend our lifetimes in study of God's word.

Colossians 3:16 **Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly** i.e. – abundantly

We should know the stories and the characters in God's word – better than Star Wars – Lord of the Rings

A) Or any TV series or series of books

B) Not just knowing about it or even knowing what it says – but capturing the heart beat of it.

C) We should know **God's position** on the social issues of our generation –

1) better than **we know the positions of our Political candidates and talk show host.**

D) The Bible is to shape my view of culture – not CULTURE shaping my view of the Bible.

1) Sadly enough, often times the opposite is true of many Christians – Culture shapes view of Bible.

E) That idea is out of date or doesn't apply to us.

1) Pick and choose what we want to believe – Danger

Our opportunities to study the Bible – VAST

A) Studies here at the Church each week

B) Incredible online resources – APP or Web

1) Other Pastors – D. Klye – Joe Fotch – listen while working out

C) Listen when you are driving – etc

- 1)Awesome books – Audio books
- D)Create your own Bible College program

We have No excuse for not KNOWING God's word

We should know the Bible better than anything else

A)It should Dominate our thinking – help us set our goals and our priorities in life

B)As well as directing my attitudes and actions.

1)When I realize – My purpose in life is to Glorify God – I want to know His word – know His Heart

C)That is the role that the Bible is to have in the simplest Christian's heart!

1)But sadly that is often not the case even amongst people who have professed Christ for many years

I am not saying this to be condemning

A)But I have been a Christian 40 years – and it is alarming to me the amount of Biblical illiteracy that exists among God's people.

B)The **dumbing down related to the Bible** is alarming – the standard has been lessened so much

1)The degree to which professing Christians live their lives in contradiction to the Bible is extremely sad.

C)Which leads us to consider the 2nd way that we see in our text that we are to Abide.

How do we abide – Know the Word?

A)#2 V.10 Obey the Word.

10 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.

B)Now you can't obey God's word until you know God's word

1)But abiding is not just about KNOWING the word but it is about DOING the word

C)James Be does not just hearers.

We experience the full measure of the blessing of God's word when we put it into practice.

A)Simple OBEYING – assures us Vitality.

B)So amazing how this works – at times – makes no sense – but obey – step out in faith – believing

1)Results are incredible – Tithing – No way Love the unlovable -

C)**When my Purpose is to glorify God** – I want to do what He says – Want to please Him!

The Results of Abiding – 3 things in our text #1 Fruit! What does that Mean?

A)The Fruit of a Christ-like Character.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-26

B)You start to see transformation take place in your life – More loving – More Joy –

1)Things that would normally upset you – Peace.

C)What is happening to me? – Becoming more like Jesus –

1)Process of a lifetime - some areas take longer than others

D)Longsuffering or Patience for 30 years – still have a long way to go – GROWING

What I love about this picture – Natural – Organic

A)The branch that is connected to the vine is going to produce grapes – NO STRAINING

B)Your Apple tree = Apples

1)No grunting or groaning - Happens

C)The same is true with us – Abide – and over time there is a transformation.

1)People look at you – Amazed - SO different

God is glorified by our transformation.

A)Shannon – Drug addicted – saved 7 months ago

B)Austin 24 – Heroin addict – thought 35 – such depth of maturity and wisdom in the Lord

C)God is glorified – when His followers reflect Him

1)Let your light so shine see good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.

D)So God is glorified by our transformation

V.2 We get a heads up that pruning is also a part of that transformation and Vital part of fruitfulness

A) **“every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”**

B) **Grape vine – growing up** – on our fence – in grape season – over take the wall – Lush green – grapes

1) Winter dry and brown.

C) Remember coming home – Dad had cut it all back – horrified – why did you do that.

1) Came back even fuller – More fruit than ever

Because the Lord loves us – Prunes us - Degrees of fruit – V.2 Fruit – V.2 More – V. 8 Much

A) Cuts away parts of your life – that are dry – weighing you down – REMOVE IT

B) Might be a hobby – not sin – gray – God says – done with that for a while. - Secular music

1) Alcohol - Sport

C) **Might be a relationship** – not good for you

1) Bring the worst out in each other

D) God doesn't prune you to hurt you – He prunes you so you can bear more fruit

E) More our Character changes more fruit comes

Hebrews 13:15 The Fruit of our Lips – Praise and worship.

A) We gather like today – Worship is happening – we worship with our full hearts –

B) Fruit that glorifies God! – Doesn't care what you sound like – ATTITUDE.

C) John 4 **God is spirit... seeking such to worship him**

Looking for worshippers

Philippians 1:22 Paul speaks of the fruit of our Labor – Service to the Lord

A) When God works through broken people like us – He gets glorified

B) Foolish things, weak things – broken things

1) Glory would be of God and not man.

Proverbs 3:9 Giving as Fruit

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.”

A) Tithes and offering – right heart – motive – Fruit

B) God uses those funds and is glorified in that work

1) Fruit for You - Part of your Reward

C) Investing and participating in the Work of God

1) He is glorified

D) My Purpose is to glorify God – I want to do that!

Result of Abiding #1 - Fruit

#2 Abiding allows us to experience the fullness of Christ's love. V.9-10

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 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.

A) Abiding puts us in the position to experience the fullness of His love.

B) Under the spot where the blessings come out !

1) Abiding puts us in the sweet spot

C) You parents understand this: When you have a child who is rebellious –

1) You are not able to bless them the way that you would like – because they are walking in rebellion

D) The prodigal son missed out on his fathers blessings – **because he wasn't there to receive them**

E) When we are not abiding – we are unable to enjoy the fullness of the blessings of God's love.

Often think when I see people go back and forth in their Christian walk – If ever they surrendered – Abide

A) They would be amazed – how God will blow their minds – right now **they only experience small portions**

Result of Abiding #1 - Fruit

#2 Abiding allows us to experience the fullness of Christ's love. V.9-10

#3 Abiding results in a life that is full of Joy

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

AS we abide in Jesus – Experience a quality of life

That resonates in Joy! – Inner peace – Satisfaction

A)Something so special about – laying your head down on the pillow at night – RIGHT W/ GOD!

B)Confidence in Living – confidence in prayers

C)There is Joy! Confidence -

1)People who know who they are in Jesus – why they exist – Abide in Him/ His Word - **BRIGHTNESS** -

They are the most satisfied people on the planet!

A)Their joy is not wrapped up in their circumstances

Deeper than that. – Wrapped up in Jesus

B)Happiness is based on happenings – Things going good – home – work – My team wins – **HAPPY**

1)Things not going good – Bummed out and depressed

C)But people who are abiding in Christ – There is a Joy in the midst of the toughest trials

1)Inner peace – a confidence – Satisfaction – **If you know what is going on in their life – you would think they would be miserable**

A)Opposite is true – They are abiding in Jesus His word – His heart – trusting in that

B)There is a confidence and a Joy that exudes from them.

1)Going to visit – sick or dying - "to bless" – I leave blessed –

C)Abiding in Jesus results in Joy –

1)When I am not abiding – there is a lack of Joy

D) I get easily worried and agitated – bummed out

CLOSE WITH this Warning – Can't skip

V.2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; V.6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Best way to understand this passage:

A)Seems to me to be speaking about a person who professes to be a Christian. –

B) Problem – No Fruit in their lives – THEY KNOW if honest – No real change in character

C)Father comes along and cuts that branch off – Judas is a good example of this.

Note: I said – **NO FRUIT – NOT LITTLE FRUIT**

A)Little fruit is a different issue – A SERMON for another day.

B)This is talking – **NO FRUIT** –

C)Important to note: Because people read this and panic – Not much fruit in my life – Cut me off.

1)The Disciples were probably wondering – is he talking about us?

V3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

D)Jesus' way of saying – not talking about you guys I am talking about someone else.

1)You are already cleansed – already saved

SO My understanding of what Jesus is saying here is this:

A)It is impossible for the Almighty God – to dwell in a persons heart by His **HOLY SPIRIT – AND THERE NOT BE SOME CHANGE!**

B)The Holy spirit is going to be working in them to draw them to the Lord – produce hunger for the word

C)But when you see someone who professes – never changes – never grows.

D)Jesus is warning – Don't be Deceived – those kind of branches get thrown into the fire – burned

1)Speaking of Judgment

That is you here today: Not liking this:

A)Better to hear it now – than later when standing before God – too late.

B)So listen: I don't want anyone here – who knows Jesus and loves Jesus to doubt – NOT talking ... You

1)My encouragement to you is ABIDE!

C)Seek to grow – hopefully fired you up today to get into the word more –

1)Be more obedient – follow through

D)But I also don't want a single person here today who looks at their life – heart – and thinks

1)Said a prayer – 6 or 16 or 60 – NEVER WALKED – no Fruit –

E)Sit here today – with a False assurance –

Today – are you truly connected to Jesus?