

I Am the Vine **John 15:1-11** **I AM Series**

“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.

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 answer 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 worldwide.

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 answer the question

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)That is our Purpose in life – bear fruit that glorifies God

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 he wants us to discover that we are going to be the most fulfilled when:

1)we are doing what he has called us to.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

A)Workmanship = Masterpiece in the making

B)God is an artist – Artist express themselves through their ART

C)Means we get to be a living breathing expression of who God is to the World – Our Purpose –

1)We exist – we are his Workmanship to glorify God

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 –

Notice again Jesus opening statement

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

A) Jesus was an amazing teacher who loved to use the present day surroundings and culture

1)To illustrate a point

B) Israel was known for its Vineyards – that were all over the land.

1) Wine making was a big part of their economy and wine was exported throughout the Mediterranean

C) But there was also a symbolic imagery here – Israel was referred to as God’s Vineyard

1) In many places in the OT

But in almost every instance in the OT when Israel is referred to as God’s Vine

A) It was used negatively and highlighted their lack of bearing fruit pleasing to God

B) And it was usually accompanied by a declaration of judgment that was coming

C) Jesus turns that imagery on its head here by declaring – I am the True Vine

What Jesus is saying is I am able to do what you have not been able to do.

A) Consistently bear fruit pleasing to God the Father – the Keeper of the Vineyard

B) I am able to be what you have not been able to be

C) This is nothing short of a gospel declaration by Jesus

Jesus is entering into what has been the picture of the Failure of their lives

A) And he is saying – I got you- I am the true Vine

B) You have not been able to bear fruit in a way that pleases God – But I got you.

C) So he is taking this imagery that has always been associated with failure and Judgment – Mess

He is entering into the Mess and saying –with this Declaration of HOPE - I got you – I got this

A) I am doing what you have not been able to do – I am being what you have not been able to be

B) Guys this is so important for us to hear because we can be just as prone to failure as they were

C) We can struggle with the same feelings of guilt and frustration as they did

D) Jesus wants us to know – I got you

Your fruitfulness is connected to me

A) The level of fruitfulness that pleases God and brings glory to God

B) That you have not been able to walk in – is now possible in me

C) Jesus takes the National picture of Israel as the Vine – and makes it personal – I am the Vine

1) You are not the Vine – but you are the branches

Outline today:

#1 The Call to Abide

#2 The Results of Abiding

#3 How do we Abide

The Call to Abide: V.4 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.

A) The Words Abide or Abides appears 10x in these 11 verses.

B) Abiding in Jesus is the theme of the passage

This is a picture of Union and Relationship.

A) Abide = the 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) Just as the branch receives all of its vital nutrients from the Vine

D) So too our spiritual health and Vitality is in being connected to Jesus

But In reality it is more than a call it is a Command

A) The Greek word for abide = meno – is in the aorist imperative sense which implies a sense of Urgency

B) It means do this now! Don’t hesitate

C) Your very Spiritual life is going to be find in your connection to me.

But this is where the Analogy and picture breaks down a bit.

A) Because in a real vine - the branch doesn’t have a choice – it is connected period

B) It is connected whether it wants to be or not. There is no will involved.

C) But if it had a choice – if it could speak the Vine would realize:

1) My life support comes from this Vine

D) As long as I am connected – all the life and nutrients of the Vine are being pumped into me

The difference with us is that we do have a choice
We do have a will! –

A) And there is a lot that we can do apart from Christ
Work, Play Pickleball – list is endless

B) But what I can't do – this is what we must understand – I can't bear fruit

1) I can't produce anything apart from JESUS that has any eternal redeeming value.

C) This is what Jesus means in V. 5 for without Me you can do nothing.

You can't fulfill your true purpose in bearing fruit that brings glory to God – apart from me

A) You can't leave a spiritual legacy – you can't have a lasting impact – apart from me

B) Now I have tried to many times to bear lasting fruit apart from Christ –

C) I have had seasons trying to serve in the flesh – my energy

1) Result: Fruit isn't real / doesn't last / I wear out
Life in the flesh is EXHAUSTING

D) So if we are going to have any kind of impact that has eternal lasting value – We have to Abide

Listen - the Flip side of “for without Me you can do nothing.”

A) Is Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me !”

B) With Jesus the Sky is the limit – no limits to what we can accomplish for the glory of God.

C) So we have this opening Command to Abide – it is Key it is essential –

1) to having a life that brings glory to God!

#2 The results of Abiding:

A) 1st is Fruit – 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.

8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

B) What is the fruit that Jesus is talking about here?

Galatians 5 The Fruit of the Spirit ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

C) Note the Word Fruit here is singular – not Fruits – Fruit – The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is Love

D) The rest of the traits mentioned here are by products of Love – Joy is loves rejoicing

E) Peace is loves rest – longsuffering is loves patience
Etc

But to put it simply: The Fruit being described in Galatians 5 and John 15 is Christlike Character/impact
A) It is simply becoming more like Jesus

B) God's end game – goal for all of us – Romans 8:29 – Conform you into the image of his own dear son

C) Translated – make you more like Jesus = Fruit

The More you abide in Christ – the more you start to resemble Jesus

A) Like a Good marriage relationship – a couple who likes to be together – spend a lot of time together

B) They start to resemble each other – True in my relationship with Denise –

1) She has taken on all my worst qualities ☺

C) Truly A couple that enjoys being together will start to think alike – talk alike – act the same

1) Sometimes they even start to look the same – which can be a bummer for the wife. Bro/sister

D) The more we abide in Jesus – the more we start to resemble him

E) James and John Acts 4 – They could tell they had been with Jesus

1)When we abide in Jesus we start to reflect him to the World

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)No grunting or groaning - Naturally Happens

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

1)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

C)But in the Winter dry and brown.

D)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- More Fruit

A)Jesus who is perfect in Love – perfect in Self Control – perfect in patience

B)Wants to produce those aspects of who He is into your life –

C)Cuts away parts of your life – that are dry – weighing you down. Holding you back/

1)REMOVES IT

Pruning can happen in various ways-

A)Through Circumstances, Job loss – friendship loss

B)But some Pruning also happens through your willingness to be pruned – Conviction

In my life the Lord has used 3 areas in my life to do the most pruning

A)My Marriage – My parenting – being a Pastor

B)See in my single days B4 Marriage– I had one person to worry about – take care of me

C)In my single days I could be ultra focused on my relationship with Jesus

1)It was easier

Then I met Denise – I fell head over heels in love

A)A year later we got married – Wonderful and Awesome – She is my best friend –

B)My Favorite person in the world to be around

C)But you know what marriage revealed about me – I am pretty selfish.

1)I like things my way, I like doing what I like to do

D)But Denise had different ways of doing things – different likes –

1)not interested in all the games I wanted to watch

E)I discovered I am pretty selfish – I need Pruning –

1)Am I willing to Jesus – become more like Jesus ?

We both had to change – and we did

A)Then 5 years in we had kids – You know what Kids revealed about me? I am selfish ☺ AGAIN?

B)And I am not very patient – I can be demanding – Unreasonable – On restriction for a Month

C)No babe – just put the whole family on restriction

D)I needed more pruning – The Lord is cutting away so I can grow more

And just when I feel like I am getting the hang of all of this – starting to Jell – and grow

A)Teach on Marriage – doing a series –

B)Denise goes through menopause – She is ok with me talking about this – we have publically

C)My wife changed – dramatically – Where did my wife go –

D)You know what I learned about me during that time – I am Selfish – AGAIN

1)MORE PRUNING

Then we finally get all the kids out to the House – Finally empty nester

A)Going back to those years – first married – Golden years – the best

B)Our oldest daughter and 1 year old grandson have to move back into our house – NOOOOOO!

C)You know what I have learned in this season about me? – Say it with me – I am Selfish

D)SOCAL Men’s conference – Al Pitman – Grandpas

E)Ok Lord I get it – More pruning

1)I love being a big part of Josiah’s life

So What am I trying to say: The pruning never stops

A)Part of the process – so you can bear more fruit and much fruit

B)Jesus loves you so he is going to prune you.

C)Goal is to make you more like him – Your life can bring God GLORY! – PURPOSE

D)So the First result of Abiding is Fruitfulness of Christlike Character being produced in you

1)And Thru YOU

The 2nd Result – Abiding results is a more effective prayer life.

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

Why does abiding in the word of Jesus affect your prayer life?

A)Because when you are abiding in the Word – you are hearing the heart of Jesus

B)Your heart becomes even more connected to his heart –

C)You start to think like Jesus – the things that He would pray for you – you are praying for yourself

1)You are asking according to His heart / His nature As it is revealed to you in the word.

You are Praying according to his will and heart

A)Ever prayed for something – and thought – I don’t know if that is really the heart of God

B)Guy cuts you off – Lord kill that guy – ah -probably not what Jesus is thinking right now

C)Confident prayers? Pray according to the Word of God.

Ex 34 – Pray that your family and friends would discover this about God

3rd Abiding Results in a more Joy filled life

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 –

And 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

#3 How do we Abide? What does it mean exactly?

A)Take this is order of importance –

So the first way that we abide is seen in V.9 Abide in my love.

B)Abiding means Staying in His love!

C)Keep yourself in the Love of God Jude 1:21

This is the first order of importance because it is the motivator to everything else.

A) V.9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love

B)Now this is an amazing verse – Jesus says AS the father loves me – I have loved you. WOW

1)Let that sink in for a minute

C)As the father loved Jesus - This is my beloved son Well pleased

D)The fathers love

1) Pure love / flawless

2) Perfect love – no limitations

3) Rich love – abundant

E)A Love that knows no bounds

Paul prayed for Ephesians – He called it the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

So our ever growing need as Christians to grow in our understanding of that love.

A)Studies of children who KNOW they are loved who get affirmed – Affection – { do better in life

B)The same is true of followers of Jesus The more we discover of the Love of God

1)the more we want to just bask in it

C)More DETERMINED we are to abide in it!

1) Not going anywhere else – staying right here

The Bible says we love him because he first loved us

A)Our love is a response to His love for us.

B)The More we come to understand his perfect love that is abounding – surpasses knowledge

C)The more Motivated we become to live in that love stay connected to that love

D)Which leads to the 2nd way that we Abide in Jesus

2nd Abide in his Word.

A)V.7 We know the Word - 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,

B)Abiding in the Word – reveals to us the Love God has for us!

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

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

Letting the Word of God dwell in you richly is not just so you can amass knowledge

A)Knowledge alone - puffs up

B)The Key to abiding in the word is so that you can know Him – Know his heart – His mind

C)Long distance relationship and Letters / heartbeat

D)Abiding in the Word of God is the single greatest way we come to Know Jesus

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.

C)When I realize – My purpose in life is to Glorify God

I want to know His word – know His Heart

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

B)Better than we know the positions of our Political candidates and talk show host.

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

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

D)Starting in January – Pastor Jason will be taking us on a 7 year journey through the Bible

1)Does it better than anyone I have ever seen in 40+ years

E)I encourage you to be here- You will learn the Word and you will fall more in love with Jesus

1)Come to know Him better

So How do we Abide?

A)1st Abiding in his Love –

2nd Abiding in His Word

B)3rd way – Obeying His Word - V.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)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 – results in Vitality.

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

C)Discover – this really works! So the way we abide is abiding in His Love/ His word – Obeying his Word

CLOSE WITH this Warning – Can't skip
V.2 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away;

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.

D)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.

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

1)You are already cleansed – already saved

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)Indication that they are not abiding – they have no relationship with Jesus

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.

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

So my understanding of what Jesus is saying here is this:

A)It is impossible for the Almighty God – to dwell in a person's 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 –

1)produce hunger for the word

C)When you see someone who professes – but never changes never grows.

D)Have to wonder – Do they really know Jesus

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

1)Speaking of Judgment

Now if 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 thinks

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

E)Sit here today – with a False assurance –

Today – truly connected to Jesus