

## Abiding in Christ (Part 3)

(John 15:1-11)

I. The Christian life is nothing less than union with Christ (vs. 4, 5).

II. Union with Christ inevitably yields spiritual fruit (vs. 4, 5).

-Spiritual barrenness is due to the absence of union with Christ.

-Spiritually healthy Christians want to be increasingly fruitful for God (v. 8).

III. The continuation of spiritual fruitfulness hinges on abiding in Christ (vs. 4, 5).

A. We abide in Christ by continuing attachment to His Word (v. 7; John 8:31).

1. Abiding in the Word of Christ involves regular exposure to Jesus' words.

-Prayerfully reading and meditating on the Bible (Ps. 1:1, 2)

-Prayerfully hearing the Bible read, taught, and preached (Rom. 10:13, 14; 1 Cor. 1:21)

2. Abiding in the Word of Christ involves continuing obedience to Jesus' words (v. 10; John 14:15, 21, 23. See also Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:21).

Sinclair Ferguson puts it this way: *"In a nutshell, abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. In other words, our relationship to Christ is intimately connected to what we do with our Bibles!"*

### Practical Lessons

1) A Christianity without the Bible is a Christianity without Christ.

2) Chronic disobedience to the words of Jesus is an alarming indicator that one is not abiding in Christ.

3) If we are abiding in Christ, we will be passionate and principled about reading our Bibles.

4) If we are abiding in Christ, we'll be passionate and principled about hearing the Word of God.

5) If we are abiding in Christ, we'll be passionate and principled about vital connection to a local church where the Word of God is central.

6) There is no abiding in Christ apart from union with Christ.