

“Abiding In Jesus: The Key To A Fruitful Life”
John 15:1-8

Introduction: Do you want to have a fruitful life? Or do you want to waste your life? It is God’s will for the life of every believer to bear fruit that remains (John 15:16). **We bear fruit through abiding in Jesus and being pruned by the Father.** Abide means to “remain in” or “be close to.”

Jesus identifies 3 characters in these verses: He is the vine, the Father is the vinedresser, and believers are the branches. Verse 3 tells believers that Christ has already cleansed them so they are in a relationship with God, but abiding deals with our fellowship and usefulness.

Jesus tells us that we can do nothing apart from Him (v.5). The analogy is that a branch is powerless when it is disconnected from the vine because life flows from the vine into the branches. If we abide in Him, we will bring forth much fruit.

What is a biblical definition of fruit? It is important for us to understand what we are talking about when we speak of bearing fruit. In some sense, fruit is anything that God does in and through us.

- A. Godly character (Galatians 5:22-23)**
- B. Leading others to Christ (Romans 1:13)**
- C. Giving (Romans 15:26-28)**
- D. Good works (Colossians 1:10)**
- E. Praise and Worship (Hebrews 13:15)**

It is crucial for us to understand, however, that true fruit is produced by Christ living through us. It is not something that can manufacture on our own. As we abide in Christ, He lives through us so His nature is manifested in our lives.

1. The purpose of bearing fruit is demonstrating that we are disciples and glorifying God (v. 8). There is no such thing as a fruitless Christian (Matthew 7:20).

2. The means of bearing fruit is abiding in Jesus (v. 4-5). Salvation brings us into a *union* with Christ, but we have to abide in order to stay in ongoing *communion* with Him. Abiding is living in an ongoing, connected fellowship with Jesus. Jesus tells us that we can do nothing apart from Him. We cannot bear genuine fruit on our own. **How do we abide in Jesus according to this passage?**

A. We have to have a relationship with Christ in order to abide (v.3). We can’t be close to Him if we are separated from Him. We have to be in a union with Him in order to live in communion with Him.

B. Confess sin (v. 3, John 13:6-11).

C. Live in dependance on Jesus (v. 5).

D. Spend time in the Word of God (v. 7, Psalm 1).

E. Pray (v. 7).

3. The increase of bearing fruit is pruning by the Father (v. 1-2, 6).

If we are not bearing fruit, God will lovingly deal with us in order to make us fruitful. A person who never bears any fruit is not a true believer (Matthew 7:20). Believers who are not bearing fruit at a particular time are disciplined by God in order for them to deal with sin and hindrances in their lives. God prunes believers who are bearing some fruit in order to make us more fruitful. This is a painful process with a good purpose. God cuts away the junk in order to make us everything He wants us to be. This is why we experience problems in our lives sometimes. God is working on us to make us as abundantly fruitful as we should be.

Conclusion: Are you in union with Jesus? Are you living in communion with Jesus?