

Abide in the Vine

John 15:1-11



*I am
the vine;
you are
the branches.*

If a man remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.

—John 15:5

Background of the Analogy

I. The past nation Israel is portrayed as
God's vine

Psalm 80:8-9

You removed a vine from Egypt; You drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground before it, and it took deep root and filled the land.

Jeremiah 2:21

“Yet I planted you a choice vine,
a completely faithful seed. How
then have you turned yourself
before Me into the degenerate
shoots of a foreign vine?”

Background of the Analogy

1. The past nation Israel is portrayed as God's vine
2. The future nation Israel is portrayed as God's vine

Isaiah 27:2, 6

In that day, “a vineyard of wine,
sing of it!.....In the days to
come Jacob will take root,
Israel will blossom and sprout,
and they will fill the whole world
with fruit.”

Background of the Analogy

1. The past nation Israel is portrayed as God's vine
2. The future nation Israel is portrayed as God's vine
3. The Messiah is portrayed as a branch bearing fruit

Isaiah 11:1

Then a shoot will spring from
the stem of Jesse, and a
branch from his roots will bear
fruit.

John MacArthur

“Israel’s apostasy made it an empty vine, and for a long time disqualified as the channel for God’s blessings. Those blessings now come only from union with Jesus Christ, the true vine. ‘Theologically, John’s point is that Jesus replaces Israel as the focus of God’s plan of salvation, with the implication that faith in Jesus becomes the decisive characteristic for membership among God’s people.’”



What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

I. Personally united to Jesus Christ by His grace through faith and repentance

It is the Father who, as the divine Gardener, has grafted us into Christ. It is Christ, by His Word, who has cleansed us to fit us for union with Himself. All is sovereign, all is of grace.

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

1. Personally united to Jesus Christ by His grace through faith and repentance
2. Being obedient to Jesus Christ

In a nutshell, abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections.

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

1. Personally united to Jesus Christ by His grace through faith and repentance
2. Being obedient to Jesus Christ
3. Being driven by our love for Jesus Christ who died in our place

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

3. Being driven by our love for Jesus Christ who died in our place

We must never allow ourselves to drift from daily contemplation of the cross as the irrefutable demonstration of that love, or from dependence on the Spirit who sheds it abroad in our hearts. Furthermore, remaining in Christ's love comes to very concrete expression: simple obedience rendered to Him is the fruit and evidence of love for Him.

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

1. Personally united to Jesus Christ by His grace through faith and repentance
2. Being obedient to Jesus Christ
3. Being driven by our love for Jesus Christ who died in our place
4. Submitting to the pruning knife of God in the circumstances of life

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

4. Submitting to the pruning knife of God in the circumstances of life

We are called, as part of the abiding process, to submit to the pruning knife of God in the providences by which He cuts away all disloyalty and sometimes all that is unimportant, in order that we might remain in Christ all the more wholeheartedly.

What does it mean to “abide in Me”?

1. Personally united to Jesus Christ by His grace through faith and repentance
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The Analogy Players

1. The Vinedresser is the Father
2. The True Vine is the Lord Jesus Christ
3. The Fruit-Bearing Branch is the True Believer
4. The Fruitless Branch is the Professing Believer

John 6:37

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”

John 10:27-29

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

The Work of the Vinedresser

What is Fruit?

Gal. 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

What is Fruit?

Heb. 13:15 - Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

What is Fruit?

Eph. 5:8-10 - for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

What is Fruit?

John 4:35-36 - “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.”

The Work of the Vinedresser

I. He purges every branch that does not bear fruit

James 2:17

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead,
being by itself.

Matthew 7:16-19

“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

The Work of the Vinedresser

1. He purges every branch that does not bear fruit
2. He prunes every branch that does bear fruit

The Message to those abiding in Christ

1. You are already justified

2. You are to abide in Christ

3. You are dependent upon the vine for bearing any fruit or much fruit

The Message to those not abiding in Christ

1. You will be removed as a branch

2. You will be devoid of any signs of spiritual life

3. You will be being gathered up and being burned

The Blessings of Abiding in Christ

1. You will have the Word of Christ abiding in you
2. You will be praying in synch with the will of the Father
3. Your fruit-bearing will glorify the Father
4. You will be abiding in the love of Christ by obeying His Word
5. You will be full of the joy of Christ

IMPLICATIONS

1. Believers - be abiding in Christ

2. Unbelievers - repent and believe in Christ
and so truly abide in Christ