

- Study how Ephesians 4:29-5:7 sounds like the 1 John and John 15 passages. Note the similar warnings, exhortations, roles, responsibilities.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5:1 “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.” (Ephesians 4:29-5:7—NIV)

- Are you obeying Him, fulfilling your role and responsibilities? See John 7:17; 8:31, 32; 14:21-24.
- Fruitfulness includes sacrificially loving others, like He did. Do you? Review 1 Corinthians 13.
- If your life is lacking joy, is that God’s way of calling you back to dependence, more faithful abiding in Jesus? Notice the same thought in Philippians 4:1-9, and Isaiah 26:3, 4.

A Discipleship Tool of Christ Community Fellowship

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ABIDE IN CHRIST, GOD’S BELOVED CHILDREN

Roles and Responsibilities in Staying Close to Jesus—from John 15

“But how?” Sometimes when told to do something, we need to humbly ask “how.” Last week, 1 John 2:28-3:3 taught us that Christ’s disciples are to “abide in Him.” Like the first Church did, we too have to deal with deceivers, defectors, as well as personal doubts. Remember Judas and Thomas? John, Jesus’ beloved disciple, often stressed our need as God’s beloved children to abide in Christ—His truth and ways (cf. John 7:17; 8:31, 32; 14:6).

1 John 2:28-3:3 “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

3:1 “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” (ESV)

Beloved Children of God, *Abide In:*

- **His Ways of Righteousness (2:28, 29)**
To avoid defection, deception, and living in sin (1 John 2:1-27; 4:17)
To be confident, unashamed at His appearing (Ephesians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:19)
Show who your Father is by being “holy as He is holy”
(cf. 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44; 45)
- **Your Secure Identity as God’s Beloved Child (3:1, 2)**
Know it! You are His Beloved Child (cf. Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 3:16)
The World don’t “get it”: Him, us (John 1:11-13; 16:1-17:26)
Yes, we don’t always act like His Children (1 John 1:8-2:2; Ephesian 4:1-3)
But, someday we will see Him, and be like Him (1 Thessalonians 4, 5)
- **Practices that Lead to Personal Purity (3:3)**
The hope He gives moves us to put away sin (cf. Colossians 3:5-10)
Obedience is born of love for Him (John 14:21-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:1-5)

What is Our Part in Abiding? How!?

In John 15, Jesus describes abiding in Him as an intimate, life-giving, relationship of dependence. We must be vigilant in our looking to, living like, and obedience to Christ (cf. John 14:15, 21-23; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6). Enjoy the images, and notice the various roles and responsibilities of us abiding in Jesus in John 15:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.”

(John 15:1-14—NIV)

Beloved Children of God, *Abide In HIM!*

A Faithful, Fruitful Life is Only Possible by Abiding in Christ

Fruit is: Christ's Personality, Purposes, and Plans in and through me!
It is increasingly becoming like Jesus in who I am (1 John 3, 4)
and what I do (Galatians 5:16-22; Ephesians 4:1; 1 John 2:6)

What is Our Part in Abiding / Being Fruitful?

❖ Know the Roles—*Who’s Who!*

Jesus is the

His Father is (cf. John 17:7; 1 John 1:5)

We are

❖ Know Your Responsibilities:

We are to:

He promises to:

Closing Applications, Additional Study for Growth

- ❑ Does your relationship to and dependence on Jesus look like that of a branch to a vine?
- ❑ God loves us enough to cut out, prune that which is harmful or hindering. Trust Him! (cf. Hebrews 12:1,2)
- ❑ What are you consistently doing to abide in, depend on Jesus? Create an acrostic from **A.B.I.D.E.**, telling how you will “Abide” in Christ. Then, use it to pray, asking for His help. “Apart from Him, we can do nothing” (John 15:5).

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