

john 15:4  
**Abide in ME**



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 15  
The week of March 7, 2021

**Christ in You: *Enjoying Our Union with Christ***

The Art of Abiding

John 15:1-11

We have seen throughout this series a deep mystery. The living God is the most awesome and inscrutable Person in the universe. He alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light. He also indwells every believer by uniting us with His Son through the presence of the Holy Spirit. He is as close to us as He is above us. Happily, we embrace this tension in a beautiful paradox that is the secret of the Christian life.

**STUDY NOTE**

There are a handful of astonishing metaphors in the New Testament that capture the mystery of our union or oneness with Christ (i.e. the metaphor of marriage, the image of the head and a body and the believer's body as God's temple). One of the most compelling metaphors used by Jesus is the image of the vine and the branches. Every Christian is vitally connected to Jesus so that we draw on His life the way a branch draws sap from the vine.

**Read John 15:1-11**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Vineyards are a common picture in the Old Testament. For instance, in Isaiah 5:1-7, the prophet sings a love song about God's vineyard that has a sad ending:

*<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.  
<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
<sup>3</sup>And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.  
<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?  
<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.*

1. Who is being depicted as the vineyard of the Lord in Isaiah 5?

In what way is a vineyard a helpful picture of the people of God?

What is the purpose of a vineyard (v. 4)?

2. When Jesus says, "I am the true vine," what is He claiming about Himself?

3. Who is the Vinedresser? What two actions does the Vinedresser perform (v. 2)?

4. Every branch in Christ experiences the pruning process so that *you* can produce more fruit. Can you describe a time when God was pruning you? Was it painful? What was the result?

5. How many times does Jesus use the word *abide* in this passage? Describe (not just define) what abiding means?

6. What does it look like to abide in Jesus?

## STUDY NOTE

Jesus is the true vine, and our ultimate success in life is dependent upon our attachment to Him. When we abide in Jesus and His Word, we are promised that our lives will produce fruit. When we abide in Jesus and obey His commands, we are promised that we will experience His joy.

7. What is the connection between keeping the commandments and abiding in Jesus and his love?

Can you disregard the commands of Jesus and expect to bear the fruit Jesus wants you to produce?

8. Why is abiding the key to producing fruit in the life of a Christian (v. 5)?

What things are impossible for us to accomplish apart from Jesus?

9. When Jesus refers to bearing fruit, what kind of fruit is He talking about?

10. What is produced in the life of a Christian who truly abides in Jesus (v. 11)? Describe the joy of Jesus.

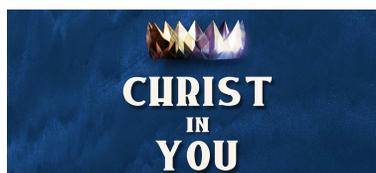
11. Have you ever experienced the complete joy of Jesus in your life?

Did it come at a time when everything was perfect or did it come in the midst of adversity and trial?

## Closing Reflection

Are you abiding in Jesus at this point in your life?

If not, what would have to change for you to say that you are abiding in Jesus?



Sermon Notes: *The Art of Abiding*

John 15:1-11

THE  
**BIBLE RECAP**  
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, March 7 thru Saturday, March 13, 2021

Numbers 28-30; Numbers 31-32; Numbers 33-34;

Numbers 35-36; Deuteronomy 1-2;

Deuteronomy 3-4; Deuteronomy 5-7