

Living In Christ

Follow-Up #2



In the first lesson, we learned that because you have asked Jesus Christ into your life, He now lives within you, and He will never leave you. You have a new relationship with Him. In this lesson we will focus on how Christ wants you to depend on Him.

Sometimes it's difficult to think of plants as vital living organisms. Unlike humans and animals, plants don't think, communicate, or move about. However, in their own way, plants are pretty amazing. Plants can actually manufacture their own food. They collect and transport nutrients from the soil through elaborate passages and combine these elements with chemicals and sunlight to feed themselves. That's why healthy plants are teeming with vibrant leaves and branches. If a plant loses a branch, it continues to live and grow. The branch, however, will soon shrivel up and die. A branch, after all, only exists to serve the plant.



The Vine And The Branch

Jesus illustrates your new relationship with Him by comparing it to a vine and branch. Read John 15:4-8. In nature, a vine can live with or without branches. But what happens to a branch when it is separated from the vine?

Why?

Who does Jesus say is the vine?

Who does He say is the branch?

What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate to you about your relationship with Him?

What do you think it means for you to "abide in Christ?"

Another word we can use for abide is **faith** or **trust**. One of the very first things Jesus wants you to learn in your relationship with Him is that you must trust Him. You must learn how to depend on Him to meet your needs, and to help you do things that are pleasing to Him.

Christ's Words In You

In John 15:7, what do you think it means when Christ says that His words should *abide* in you?

When Jesus talks about His words, He is referring to the Bible. Why would knowing what the Bible says about Jesus help you to trust Him and abide in Him?



In the Bible it says, "...faith comes from listening to this Good News - The Good News about Christ." (Romans 10:17) Like any relationship, the better you know someone, the more you will trust him. This is also true in your relationship with Jesus Christ. As you study the Bible (God's Word), you will discover not only that Jesus Christ has come into your life and saved you from the penalty for sin, but He is also the most trustworthy friend you will ever have.

But in order to abide in Him, you will need to get to know Him better and better. Do you have a Bible of your own, one that you can understand?

It is good to set aside a specific time to read the Bible. (You can freely receive Campus Journal to your home by calling 616-942-6770) When would be the best time each day for you to spend time with God in His Word?



Christ's Qualities In You

In John 15:7-8, what are the results of abiding in Christ?

What do you think it means to "bear fruit" spiritually?

In nature, a grapevine can never produce apples or oranges. It produces grapes because that is its nature. When you abide in Christ, what fruit will you bear? See Galatians 5:22-23.

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When you abide in Christ, He supernaturally works within you to produce His character, which is called the fruit of the Spirit. As you grow in your new relationship, these qualities (fruit) will become more and more evident, and as a result, your life will continually change.

How has Christ been making a difference in your life?

Which of the qualities listed in Galatians 5:22-23 do you see growing in you?

Christ Works Through You

In nature, the fruit of any tree or vine carries seeds inside it. What is the purpose of the seeds?



When you abide in Christ, what else will result in your life? (Acts 1:8)

When you abide in Christ, depending on Him as a branch depends on the vine, you will not only see God produce fruit in your life, but also through your life, as you tell others about Him. Christ will use you to help others come to know Him.

If Christ is the vine, what is His responsibility?

If you are the branch, what is your responsibility?

Application

Let's discuss several ways you can apply the things you have just learned...

1) Review Galatians 5:22-23. Which quality do you feel you need most in your life?



2) As you abide in Christ, you will want to tell others about Him. With whom would you like to share Christ?

Begin praying for these people and then share with them how you received Christ, and how they can become a Christian also.

3) Stop and thank God that Christ is in your life and that He is producing His fruit within you.

Next week we are going to talk about Christ's power within us, and how He enables us to be obedient to God.