



Constantly Abiding

John 15:1-10

The familiar passage in John 15:1-10 concerns the true Vine (the Lord Jesus) and the branches (believers).

In these ten verses there is one verb (Greek—*menō*) that occurs ten times. It is translated “abide” in all cases except for one occurrence in verse 9, where it is translated “continue.” The verb means “to abide, to stay, to continue (in the same place), to remain, to dwell.”

In the natural realm, the branch must abide in the vine in order to receive the life, health and vitality derived from the sap. If the branch were to be cut off, it would dry up and wither. The branch has no life of its own. All its vital nutrients come from the vine. The Lord Jesus is our true Vine and our life source. As believers, our responsibility as branches is to abide in Him and stay vitally connected to the Vine.

Fruit is not the result of strenuous labor or exertion, but rather it is the natural product of remaining and staying connected to Christ. The issue is not what I do; for without Christ, I can do nothing (*verse 5*). The issue is what Christ will do through Me, as I continue to maintain the abiding relationship. God desires fruit, more fruit (*John 15:2*) and much fruit (*John 15:8*).

In these first ten verses, only two commands are given: **(1)** Abide in Christ (*verse 4*); **(2)** Abide (continue) in Christ’s love (*verse 9*).

An abiding relationship with Christ also involves a right relationship to God’s Word, with His Word finding its home in our hearts (*verse 7; John 8:31; 1 John 2:14*). Continuing in Christ’s love involves a wholehearted obedience to Christ’s commands (*verse 10; John 14:21-24*). A person disconnected from God’s Word and disobedient will be barren and fruitless. The branch is dependent upon the Vine for everything. ***Stay connected!***

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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