

We Will Thrive

When We Abide In Christ (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

We will thrive when we abide in Christ.

Key Scriptures

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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.

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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. John 15:1-17 ESV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let

us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1 ESV

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

What does it look like to abide in Christ?

1. Trim the fat.
2. Align with the vine.
3. Follow His lead?

Start talking.

- Have you ever purchased something off of an infomercial?
- What's the greatest infomercial product of all time?

Start thinking.

- Jesus said that "apart from me you can do nothing." This seems like a pretty harsh statement. Is this really true?
- Read Hebrews 12:1. Why is it important to lay aside every weight, in addition to every sin?
- What does it look like, practically, to "Align with the Vine?" How do you shape your rhythms, habits, and thoughts to Jesus?

Start sharing.

- Which spiritual discipline is the most challenging for you? Why?
- Is there anything that is weighing you down right now?

Start doing.

- Where do you need to trim the fat?
- Where do you need to align your rhythms and habits and thoughts with Jesus?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. Where does this list describe you? Where are you weak? What can you do this week to follow Jesus's lead?

Closing prayer.

Father, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus. I'm thankful that as we abide in Him, our lives produce fruit. Help us to align our lives with Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we might love others by laying down our lives, as we live in joy-filled friendship with Him.