

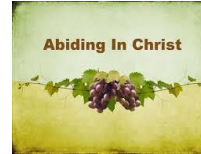
[John 15:1-17](#) - Jesus describes a way to live in connection with him and the Father. It starts with abiding in him. The word "abide" is not used much in our language today. Abide means to live or dwell. Jesus is saying that we should live with him. The way to do that is to live in his love, which is the Father's love. The Father loves us deeply, and we can see that when we see His gifts, protection, and guidance. When we see how others love us, we catch a glimpse of the Father's love. It is a glimpse because God's love is much deeper and stronger than the love others have for us. His love saves us from our sin and provides us with an eternal home.

What does God's love look like?

How do we abide in God's love?

What can we do today to show God's love to other people?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for June 8 – June 14, 2026

The last "I am" statement of Jesus is found in John 15. Jesus describes himself as a vine. He also describes how God the Father and humanity relate to the vine. The connection between the three shapes our understanding of salvation. We can picture a gardener, someone who tends to plants. In Jesus' day, the gardener took care of grape vines as we care for tomato plants. The gardener put the vine in place and cared for it just as God the Father sent Jesus to earth, and nurtured their relationship. The gardener also cares for the branches, those parts of the vine that have been grafted into the vine to grow and produce fruit. We are the branches, as Jesus says. For our well-being, we need to stay connected to the vine, or abide in Jesus. For us to abide in Jesus, we need two things: nourishment and production. We need to receive what Jesus gives and bear fruit, making other disciples.

~ Pastor Seth

PRAISE GOD

Mon. 6/8

[Psalm 68](#) – What nourishes our souls? This question differs for each of us, but it does have some similarities. Praise is one activity that nourishes our souls. When we praise God, we look at what God is doing in our lives. The psalmist lists several things that God is doing: He is saving people, He cares for widows and orphans, He sends rain to water the crops, and His power is unmatched. As the psalmist recognizes all that God is doing, his heart begins to sing praise to God. If we follow the psalmist's example, we will recognize God's activity in our lives. When our eyes are off of ourselves and on to God, our hearts will sing of God's work and let others know who God is and what He is doing in our lives.

What is God doing in your life?

What praises come to mind when you focus on God's activity in your life?

BOUNDARIES

Tue. 6/9

[Deuteronomy 5:1-33](#) – Good gardeners know there are boundaries needed for their gardens. Boundaries set the area apart from others. The boundaries provide opportunities for the plants to flourish. A lack of boundaries allows some plants to take over the area and choke out others. As God's people were leaving Egypt and heading to the land God had promised them, God set boundaries for them. These boundaries would set them apart from the other nations. These boundaries allow them to flourish in their relationship with God. The boundaries are still in place for us. They help us to see what we should be doing so our relationship with God and each other can flourish. The struggle is connected to our humanity and the desire to live outside of those boundaries.

What are the boundaries God has placed for us?

What happens when we live outside of the boundaries?

A PEACEFUL EXISTENCE

Wed. 6/10

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#) - One of the plant images given of Jesus comes from the prophet Isaiah. He shares how a shoot will come from the root of Jesse. This is a reference to Jesus' connection to David, who was the greatest king of Israel, known for his leadership of the nation and his love for God. The prophecy states that the Spirit of God would be on this shoot and would usher in peace, among other things. The image of peace comes from animals that don't go together. One of those images is the wolf living with the lamb. In the world we live in, the wolf hunts and eats the lamb, but Jesus would create a place where they would live together in peace and thrive. We know that Jesus will do this when He returns.

What part of Isaiah's prophecy do you connect with?

How does this prophecy nourish your soul?

WHO WILL LIVE WITH US?

Thur. 6/11

[John 14:15-21](#) – One of the fears many people have is being totally alone and isolated. There is something within us that wants to be seen and known. It is one of the reasons why kids will throw temper tantrums. They want the attention of the adult who loves them. Jesus understood his disciples. The last three years have been a special time for them as they lived life together. Jesus knows his time is drawing to a close. So, he lets the disciples know his Father's plan to give them someone else who will walk with them and guide them on their journey. This person is the Holy Spirit and will enable them to do more than He could. How? Part of it is that the Holy Spirit is not limited. As the disciples would go in different directions, the Holy Spirit would be with each of them.

What does the Holy Spirit do for each of us?

How does the Holy Spirit empower us to follow Jesus?

LIVE WITH JESUS

Fri. 6/5

[Romans 6:1-11](#) – There are some people whose logic goes beyond our own. Paul is one of those people for me. He has a logical understanding of Jesus that draws us closer to him. His letter to the church in Rome gives us an insight into his thoughts. He has been building up to this point of dying to sin and living for Jesus. Part of his argument is that we all have sinned and fall short of God's expectations. God's love for us did not leave us in that place; He sent His son, Jesus, to provide a way for us to be with Him. When Jesus died, he took the penalty of our sin so we could live. Paul lays out more reasons as to why we should follow Jesus and live differently.

Why should we stop living in sin?

How can we stop living in sin?