

January Sermon Series:
ABIDING IN CHRIST

Abide means to endure without yielding, to bear patiently, to accept without objection, to remain stable or fixed in a state, to continue in a place.

**The Greek word for abide is
Meno. It means “to stay in a
given place, state, relation or
expectancy.”**

The Big Idea

We can only be fruitful for Christ to the degree that we are faithfully abiding in Him.

- **The Works of the Vinedresser**
 - **The Works of the Vine**
 - **The Laws of the Branch**

Scripture Lesson
John 15:1-11

John 15:1-11 (NKJV), “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 bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither [can] you unless you abide in Me.”

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and [so] prove to be My disciples.”

“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

Lesson One:
**The Works of the
Vinedresser**

**1. God, The Vinedresser
Knows Us.**

Psalm 139:1-5, O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue,

But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before and laid Your hand upon me.

**John 10:14, I am the good shepherd,
and I know My own and my own know
Me.**

**Ephesians 2:10, For we are God's
masterpiece. He has created us anew
in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good
things He planned for us long ago.**

2. God, The Vinedresser Cares For Us.

Titus 2:11-14, For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

3. God, The Vinedresser Encourages Us.

**“What God Lifts Up; No
Person Can Push Down.”**

Psalm 40:2 (NIV), He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

**James 4:10, Humble
yourselves in the sight of
the Lord, and He will lift
you up.**

4. God, The Vinedresser Disciplines Us.

To **prune means “To trim by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, especially to encourage growth.”**

Hebrews 12:5-11, My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

**“Be grateful for the wound
that pushes you toward
God.”**

**5. God, The Vinedresser
Delights In Us.**

**John 13:35, By this all will know
that you are My disciples, if you
have love for one another.**

God Has A Green Thumb!

I Corinthians 3:7, So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Psalm 84:11, For the LORD God is a sun and shield; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Acts 17:28, In Him we live, and move, and have our being.

God Has A Green Thumb!