

Sunday 3rd Feb. 2008.

ABIDING IN CHRIST

Text: John 15: 1- 17.

Outline:

- (1) The Vine and the Branches (15:1-17)
- (2) The illustration of the vine (15:1-6)
- (3) The results of abiding in Christ (15:7-17)

Introduction:

This year is our year of the next level and as we are moving to the next level we should remember very importantly that the only way we can move to the next level is by abiding in Christ. We cannot afford to be visitors to His grace we must be sure that we are abiding in His grace. That is the only way to the next level. In James 4: 7-10 it is very clear how we can be lifted up and moved to the next level. It takes submission, resisting the devil, drawing near to God, purging ourselves of every unrighteousness and remaining very resolute in Him while humbling ourselves before Him.

Jesus likened the relationship between the believer who wants to bear fruit with that of the Vine and the Branches.

The Vine and the Branches:

Speaking technically, the branch has no claim to the land upon where exists; it has no claim to the nutrients. It exists at the mercy of the vine. In Acts. 17: 28, the Bible says “for in Him we live, and move and have our being...for we are also of his off-spring”. It is like the relationship between a licensor and a licensee. It enjoys its stay at the mercy and good pleasure of the licensor. He has to obey the dictates of the license and anything done inconsistently with the rights of the licensor will automatically lead to the loss of the license.

The Illustration of the Vine:

Quick things about the Vine:

1. The Vine has a very caring husbandman – The Father
2. The Vine is pleased when the branches bear fruit 3 John 2; Ps. 149:4; Ps. 35: 27.
3. It provides the agency needed for cleansing for the branches.
4. It provides shelter for the branches to abide in and prosper.

Results of abiding in the Vine:

By abiding in Christ, there are clear results and benefits which I pray will be ours in the name of Jesus.

1. **You have freedom to ask for anything you desire (v.7)**
2. **We can abide in the love of Christ (v.9)**
3. **Our joy can be full (v.11).**
4. **You have divine commitment (v. 13)**
5. **You become the friend of God (v.14)**
6. **You know the secrets of God (v.15)**
7. **You are ordained and chosen by God (v.16)**
8. **You will find it easy to love others as well (v.17).**

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