

Abiding

Intro: The hymn says, “Abide With Me”. It’s words tell of a believer who prays that God will be with him through all that life presents. In the end, the writer speaks of Jesus helping him to complete the journey of life into death. Though the phrase is very similar to Jesus’, “Abide in Me”, Jesus was helping his disciples see issue from his point of view, not ours. Let’s notice in John 15 how Jesus teaches to Abide In Me so that he will “Abide With Us”.

1. Abide in the “true vine”.
 - A. Define abide - continue; stay; travel with.
 - B. Be a branch that produces fruit.
 - C. Accept being pruned.
 - D. Abide in his words (Jesus’) and you will know what to desire.
 - E. Abide and you will give God the glory and be a true disciple.

2. Abide in the love of fellow believers.
 - A. Abide in Christ’s love.
 - B. Abide in my commandments.
 - C. Abide in my love by loving others.
 - D. Abide in Jesus’ friendship.
 - E. Abide in the thought that Jesus chose me and you as his friends. It’s not my choice to love, Jesus already made the choice for me.

3. Abide in the “hate” of the world.
 - A. Remember, this is the reality of the world hating us.
 - B. Isn’t it amazing that the world makes us out to be the haters. Nothing new.
 - C. Why is it that the world would hate Christians, anyway?
 - D. Why did the listeners hate Stephen? Paul?
 - E. What happened between Acts 2 and Acts 8?
 - F. Jesus doesn’t want us to be ruined by the hate of the world.
John 17:14; 16:2-3; 15:22-24

Conclusion: So how should I start my day? Look at our three points. I am going to live like I’m a branch connected to the vine, Jesus. I’m going to find a way to show a brother or sister in Christ how much I love him or her. I am not going to let the hate of the world cause me to want to love it. I choose to “abide”.