

WHY MUST WE ABIDE IN CHRIST?

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” John 15:4

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The Word of God makes it clear that believing in Christ is not simply a feeling. Rather, as proof of our faith in Him as Savior, we must abide in Him so He becomes Lord of our life, through following His teachings and be His disciple and witness to a lost and dying world.

Why?

Gal 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

John 8:31-32: “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 15:8: “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

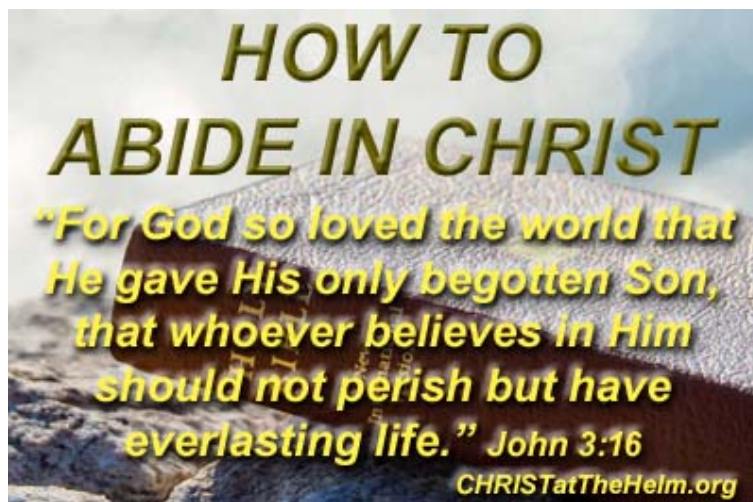
The purpose:

Eph 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Eph 3:17-19: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Introspection: Do I understand the principle of abiding in Christ as proof of my genuine faith?

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To abide in Christ can only be the result of truly believing in Jesus, the only Son of God, as the Savior whom God sent to pay the penalty we deserved. It implies that believing is much more than an acquiescence of the facts, but most importantly to follow through with our belief in abiding by the demands that our belief require.

How then do we abide in Christ?

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Col 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Col 3:1-3: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Why?

John 15:16: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

Introspection: Does my life as a believer conform to how I must live to abide in Christ?

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ABIDE IN CHRIST?

“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” 1John 2:5

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What did Jesus declare concerning those who truly abide in Him, through living by His Word?

John 15:5: “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:1-2: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser... Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 14:23: “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

John 15:7: “If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

John 10:27-28: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Then, Paul in Rom 8:1 explained: “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

The reason Isaiah 26:3 states, “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind *is* stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

Introspection: Is the love of God perfected in me through abiding in Christ and producing fruit to His glory?

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WHAT IF WE DON'T ABIDE IN CHRIST?

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away."

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John 15:1-2

Inasmuch as we might declare that we are Christians, unless we abide in Christ, meaning our hearts are focused on living in accordance to His Word and commands, we might fool the world even ourselves, but we'll never fool God.

Here's what scripture tells us on this:

John 15:6: "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

2John 9: "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God."

1John 2:15: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Rom 8:9: "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

The reason many leave the faith as 1John 2:19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

James 4:8 adds a serious warning to those who are double-minded: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded."

Introspection: Do I deceptively follow the world in the flesh and pretend to be a true believer in Christ?

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