

## Abide in Him

**Jn 15:1 — There are many vines, but He is the true Vine, the true source of life. Verse 2 is not an empty threat. Pruning is chastisement so that we will bear better fruit, however if we are not abiding in Him, we are good for nothing and our punishment is being taken away from Him. If He has spoken to our hearts, then we are clean. His purpose is not lawless, nor is it selfish. The only thing that will last is what is done through our communion with Him — not just union, but communion. Bearing fruit is the proof of being a disciple. The word *abide* occurs ten times in verses 1-10.**

Jn 5:24 — This is just doctrine without the understanding of what it truly means to pass out of death and into life. This is expressed in 1 Jn 3:14. There will be much condemnation and accusation in the last days. 1 Jn 3:19-22 — If we don't know we're of the truth we will be taken out of the way. The evil one is going to increase in his activity against the saints to try to convince them they are not of the truth. So if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before the Father. We must *know* we are of the truth. Before we can get what we ask for, we must be doing His commandments (1 Jn 3:20). Everything we ask is for His purpose and not our own.

1 Jn 3:10-17 — John knew there were both the children of God and children of the devil in the churches. In the last days there will be a great gulf or gap between those who are abiding and those who are not in fellowship. There must be a widening gap, separation between righteousness and lawlessness. 1 Jn 3:2-3 — If we are not living for this hope we are living in rote. In Jn 6:66, all left Him except for the Twelve, because they were not abiding in Him. If we have our hope fixed in Him, we are going to become pure, but if we do not have the hope of someday being like Him who abides in us, then we will not be purified.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness (1 Jn 3:4). We sin by transgression or by neglect — acts of *commission* and acts of *omission*. Commission is doing deeds of lawlessness, and omission is not doing the deeds you are supposed to do in loving your brother. Lawlessness or sin is being unregulated, unrestrained or uncontrolled by His commandments. We do not know that He came in the flesh unless we see Him fleshed out in the body 1 Jn 3:6. No one who abides in Him sins (or commits sin). There is no way you can sin while you're abiding in Him. The only time we sin is when we're not abiding in Him. Abiding is not just living here in a passive state. Sin is knowing the right thing to do, but not doing it. No one abiding in Him sins. So if we're on the verge of sin there is always a way out, but sometimes we don't take it (1 Pet 4:1). *Abide* means to stay, to remain, to not leave or fall when the battles arise. To abide in Him, we must suffer. To abide means to stand the consequences of; to suffer for; to be stable and fixed. When we are abiding in Him we are suffering.

Ps 91:1 — We must take our stand under the shelter or umbrella of the most High and *stay* there. We have a tendency in us to drift. We can drift out from under His shadow. Drifting is a *powerful* tendency or force in us. It is unconscious, and it is something working continually against us to take or draw us away. In Ps 91:5 the arrow is the same as the fiery darts of the enemy in Eph 6. 1 Cor 10:12 — Beware when you think you stand, for then you shall fall. In the noonday many will be taken away because they think they stand. We have seen a thousand fall; we haven't seen 10,000 fall yet, but we will (verse 8). If we abide in Him we will only be a spectator at the recompense of the wicked and will see the reward of the lawless. If you're not an abider, you will sin, either by action or by neglect of your brother's needs. He will deliver all who set their love upon Him because they have *made* Him a refuge, their abiding place. Verses 14-16 is a wonderful promise to those who love Him, to those who stand, and suffer in the consequences to follow Him. The believer knows that YHWH will never leave him nor forsake him. Being a disciple means you will suffer and bare the shame of knowing Him, you will bear the reproach. We bare the shame, but we don't need to let it come into us and make us cower or be cowards. We must be free of self concern. If we are of the truth, we will have much greater opposition than Jehovah's Witnesses. It will be more difficult for us to give witness to YHWH because there is opposition from the very demonic powers that give power to those who preach another gospel. There is no opposition for them because they have the enemy's support (Phm 1:6, NIV). If we

are active in sharing our faith we will be clear, but if we are not we will be in a fog and wonder what we are doing here. Our work will be a drudgery, and we will want to be somewhere else. Heb 10:34-39 — But our way is not of those who draw away and shrink back and if we won't shrink back, then His soul will have pleasure in us. He either has pleasure in us or He doesn't. We are of those who are full of faith. A telephone pole doesn't sin. It doesn't do anything. We are not to be like that. Jms 4:17 — This is the definition of sin. Our conscience depends on knowledge and functions according to the highest standard it knows. The more we know the more is expected of us. The more we know, the better a disciple we can be. Bearing false witness is an active sin against your brother, however when we *have something* to say we must speak and not be concerned about what man might think of us. If we know our Father is calling us to speak. The one who *did* know the Father's will and didn't do it will receive many more lashes than those who didn't know it.

1 Jn 2:6 — If we're not loving our brothers we are beating them. We must walk, being an equivalent representative of Him. We're saved in order to be a disciple. Beating is hating. Ignoring is the highest form of hatred. 1 Jn 1:6 — If we're not walking in the light, we're not going to confess our sins. We can only be forgiven in the light; this is where we must abide. There is a false light. We should be careful with people who are not abiding in Him. Those who are out of fellowship are lepers. Those who claim to have fellowship, but are not in fellowship — beware of them. It's possible that there are people in this room who are not walking in the light. If they have any kind of countenance it is a false one. A disciple, even though they are suffering, will have joy and peace within (1 Pet 4:1).

1 Jn 3:8 — The one who commits sin is of the devil. In verse 7 the righteous does what is right. The enemy, the accuser is who holds us back from speaking, giving thanks, loving our brothers, etc. We must abide in Him and live in Him. If we don't, it's because we think it's OK not to abide in Him — this is a defilement that is still in us from Christianity (Heb 10:13). Stand also means to occupy, "occupy until I return" (Mt 7:21-23).

Eph 6:13 — When we've done everything, then *stand*. No one who abides in me sins to abide is to be immovable, steadfast (Job 17:9).

This is pure principle that will never change. Jn 7:17 — If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself.