



1.7

Each member has matured in a life that bears the fruit of Christ's Spirit.

John 15:1-2 "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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

ABIDE

Open John 15, and leave it open for reference.

In verse 4 Jesus says "Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." If we abide, we can bear fruit. If we don't, we can't.

Q. What do you think 'abiding' (or 'remaining') means?

Q. What about 'bear fruit'?

Professor of Theology, Edwin Blum describes “abiding” in this way: “What does it mean to remain (or abide)? It can mean, first, to accept Jesus as Savior ([John 6:54, 56](#)). Second, it can mean to continue or persevere in believing ([John 8:31](#) [“hold” is remain]; [1 John 2:19, 24](#)). Third, it can also mean believing, loving obedience ([John 15:9–10](#)).” (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, vol. 2; Wheaton, IL, 1985*). To remain or abide then is to **accept, persevere in relationship, and lovingly obey.**

Why is abiding so important? In this metaphor Jesus tells us there is an expected outcome that He wants - fruit. The only way to bear this fruit, this outcome, is to accept Him as savior, persevere in our intimate faith relationship with Him, be obedient to His commands, and, as Jesus discusses in John 14, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Notice Jesus does not command us to bear fruit; He commands us to abide in Him. **If** we abide in Him, **then** we can be fruitful.

Warren Wiersbe explains the metaphor when he says, “Of itself, a branch is weak and useless. It is good for either bearing or burning, but not for building (read [Ezekiel 15](#)). The branch cannot produce its own life; it must draw that life from the vine. It is our communion with Christ through the Spirit that makes possible the bearing of the fruit.” (*The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2; Wheaton, IL, 1996*)

So, what is this fruit? Warren Wiersbe goes on to say, “Several different kinds of spiritual fruit are named in the Bible. We bear fruit when we win others to Christ ([Romans 1:13](#)). We are a part of the harvest ([John 4:35-38](#)). As we grow in holiness and obedience, we are bearing fruit ([Romans 6:22](#)). Paul considered Christian giving to be fruit from a dedicated life ([Romans 15:28](#)). “The fruit of the Spirit” ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)) is the kind of Christian character that glorifies God and makes Christ real to others. Even our good works, our service, grow out of our abiding life ([Colossians 1:10](#)). The praise that comes from our hearts and lips is actually fruit to the glory of God ([Hebrews 13:15](#)).” (*The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2; Wheaton, IL, 1996*)

John 15:10 “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.”

Fruit, then, is the activity and character that is developed in our lives through our belief, relationship, and loving obedience to Jesus Christ. This is God’s expectation of us as branches who are part of the vine of Jesus Christ, and He will work with us to make sure we bear fruit that glorifies Him. Notice how in Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul uses a similar metaphor for the church as the body of Christ that is to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”

In the vineyard there is a vinedresser, God the Father. His role is to make sure plugged-in branches are lifted up and pruned to grow even more fruit and to remove the dead branches.

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God is paying attention to your fruitfulness. It matters to Him and He works to make you more fruitful. You are not doing this alone; actually, He is doing this through you.

**Q. Do you find the outcomes of your ‘abiding’ activity to be ‘fruit’?
How is He causing you to become fruitful?**

Q. Have you experienced God’s pruning? Review that here.

Pray for your life to be even more fruitful as God lifts you up and that you continue to submit to His pruning. He loves you and wants you to experience the joy of fruitfulness in Christ.

CONCLUSION

God wants us to lead a fruitful life. For that to be true of us, we have to ABIDE in Christ as a branch abides in a vine. His life flows through us to cause us to bear the fruit He desires. He will also prune us to take away dead parts of our life so we can become even more fruitful for Him.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. When we abide in Christ, we bear fruit. What fruit have you noticed in your leadership or conversely, what about your leadership keeps you from abiding?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- Read
What Does it Mean to Abide in Christ
<https://www.gotquestions.org/abide-in-Christ.html>
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
Fruitfulness on the Frontlines
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/377582>