

Finding fruitful rest in the Incarnation

John 15:1-11

[1] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] 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. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] 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. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9] As the

Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [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. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)

I. Christ invites us to abide in Him (v.4)

4 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.

II. Abiding in Christ leads to fruitfulness (v.5, 8)

[5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing

[8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

III. There is a difference between being Christ abiding and Christ adjacent (v.1-2, 6)

[1] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] 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.

a. First part of the warning: Fruitless branches get cut off

[THIS VERSE IS BROUGHT UP A FEW MINUTES LATER]

[6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

b. Second part of the warning: Fruitful branches get pruned

IV. Abiding in Christ leads to a fruitful prayer life

[7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

V. Abiding in Christ leads to faithfulness

[9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

[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.

VI. Abiding in Christ leads to joy

[11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)