

# A TRUE CHRIST FOLLOWER MUST ABIDE

## John 15:5

September 10/11, 2016



1. Fill in the following blanks in the summary statement of this week's message:

*It is impossible to truly follow Christ without \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.*

2. Take some time to read through all of John 15. When did this passage occur in Jesus' life? To whom is Jesus speaking? If you could summarize the chapter into one sentence, what would it be?
3. From the context of this passage, how would you define the word, **abide**?
4. Why would Jesus' choice of illustration with a vine and branches be so helpful for his hearers? Can you think of something that would be an equivalent analogy today?
5. Why are we often so tempted to believe that it's *our* activity, *our* behavior, or even *our* obedience that is the most important factor in seeing godly fruit within our lives?
6. Read **2 Corinthians 13:5**. Discuss how you would encourage or even challenge a friend who says the following to you: *"I'm worried that I'm not saved, because I see little to no fruit in my life."*
7. What kinds of things are you personally struggling with 'abiding' in too much in? Are you spending your time abiding in your smartphone, your television, the internet, your spouse, your kids, your appearance, your gym, your hobbies, your house, your holidays, or something else?
8. Read **Exodus 33:11-16**. How does Moses illustrate the truth of John 15:5?
9. Can you see in your life evidence today how the Lord may be pruning you through a trial to get your attention and empty you of self, in order to open the door for you to abide in Him and bear much fruit *through* Him?
10. How does the truth that God chooses to use us as branches to bear his fruit make you feel?

*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.*

John 15:5

