

\_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST  
John 15:1-5

Today we begin a 3-part series entitled "How to \_\_\_\_\_". As we observe the events taking place in the world today, it seems that the time is coming when believers will have to deal with survival in a wicked, Christ hating \_\_\_\_\_. In order to survive, the first thing needful for the Believer is to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, which is the development of a deeper personal relationship with Christ.

Cf. 1 John 2:1-3:10

Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_:

2:3-Know Him (Knowledge-\_\_\_\_\_)

2:5-Be in Him and He in us (\_\_\_\_\_)

2:6-Abide in Him (Constancy-steadfastness/\_\_\_\_\_)

- "Ought"-an obligation but not in the sense of a "\_\_\_\_\_", but instead an "I want to, therefore I will"

- I. To abide in Christ leaves no room for the \_\_\_\_\_ 1 John 2:15-16
- A. "Love not"-don't have an \_\_\_\_\_ attachment with, so as whatever loved strongly influences one's way of life and thinking.
  - B. "World"
    - 1. The sum total of human behavior on this earth which is \_\_\_\_\_ from and hostile to God.
    - 2. Also includes earthly things, possessions, which \_\_\_\_\_ the believer away from following Christ.
- II. To abide in Christ produces a desire for his \_\_\_\_\_ Cf. 1 John 2:28; 3:1-3
- A. "Abide" 2:28a-to stay, dwell, \_\_\_\_\_ in the person of Christ
  - B. "That when He shall appear" 2:28b
    - 1. "Appear"-be manifested, make Himself \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone bodily
    - 2. His return for His \_\_\_\_\_, the New Testament age believers
  - C. "We may have confidence" 2:28c-bold assurance \_\_\_\_\_ we have been dwelling in Christ
  - D. "And not be ashamed" 2:28d-dwelling in Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the need for being embarrassed or ashamed of how we are living our life in this present world.
  - E. "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is" 3:2
    - 1. Cf. Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.
    - 2. Already \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, we shall enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ just like Him
- III. To abide in Christ produces a holy, sin-\_\_\_\_\_ life Cf. 1 John 3:6a, 7-9
- A. "Abide in Him...sin not" Vs 6a-dwelling in constant fellowship with Christ removes the \_\_\_\_\_ to live a life of sinful practices and habits.
  - B. There is a definite distinction in believers: those who abide in Christ and those who do \_\_\_\_\_. Vs 7
    - 1. Those abiding in Christ are \_\_\_\_\_ characterized by a life-style filled with sinful practices.
    - 2. The life-style of those abiding in Christ is behavior and practices in \_\_\_\_\_ with the way Christ lived His life while on the earth.
  - C. The distinction made possible by Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ to the earth Vs 8
    - 1. Those whose life-style is characterized by sinful practices are \_\_\_\_\_ Christians, therefore they do not abide in Christ. Vs 8a
      - a. "Commit sin"-\_\_\_\_\_ in a life-style of sin
      - b. "Is of the devil"-\_\_\_\_\_ to satan, are members of satan's family, not God's

2. One of the things Christ came to earth to accomplish was \_\_\_\_\_ over sin for the believer Vs 8b
  - a. "Manifested"-made His \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth
  - b. "Destroy"-break the \_\_\_\_\_, thus destroy the hold of satan on believers

E. Those who belong to Christ through the New Birth, have been \_\_\_\_\_ from living a life-style of sinful practices. Vs 9

1. "Commit"-\_\_\_\_\_, dwell in
2. "For His seed remaineth in him"-the \_\_\_\_\_ and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
3. This verse is not teaching that the believer will never sin (Cf. 1:8-9), but that he will not live a life-style characterized by Satan's control over him/her.

IV. One who does \_\_\_\_\_ abide in Christ:

- A. Leaves no \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ in their life, but all the room the world demands of them  
Cf. 1 John 2:15
- B. The commandments of God are not \_\_\_\_\_ Cf. 1 John 2:4
- C. Practices sinful habits as a \_\_\_\_\_ style and has no desire to have victory over sin Cf. 1 John 3:6b, 8

In order to \_\_\_\_\_ in this sin-cursed world, the believer must ever desire and pursue abiding in Christ. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit, filled with much success, and some \_\_\_\_\_. However the pursuing Believer does not \_\_\_\_\_ up, but continues the pursuit until Christ calls them \_\_\_\_\_.