

_____ 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 _____.