

“Abounding in Christ”
John 15:9-25

The Christian life is not a desperate attempt to remain in the vine. The Christian life is not a panic to persevere in the faith. The Christian life is not the fear of falling away from Christ. Rather, Jesus wants us to experience the abundant blessing of our abiding relationship with Him.

I. The _____ of _____ (9-17)

A. The _____ of His love (9a)

B. The _____ to His love (9b-10)

Lest we should fill the injunction to remain in Christ's love with some insipid [generic, pathetic], pious jargon, v. 10 immediate makes the issue clear. If we are the recipients of Jesus' love in a way analogous to his own reception of the Father's love, we must remain in Jesus' love by exactly the same means by which he has always remained in his Father's love: obedience, that total obedience which finds Jesus testifying, 'The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him' (8:29). The obedience of Jesus is one of the central Christological realities articulated by this gospel (e.g. 4:34; 5:19ff.; 6:38; 8:29, 55; 10:17-18; 12:27-28; 14:31) . . . that obedience . . . serves as the supreme paradigm for the obedience that we owe.

- D.A. Carson

C. The _____ of His love (11)

D. The _____ of His love (12, 17)

E. The _____ of His love (12b-16)

1. Christ's work _____ (13)

2. Christ's work _____ (14-15)

3. Christ's work _____ (16)

We know that Jesus loves us (9) because He chose us (16) and gave His life for us (13). Jesus wants us to remain in His love (9) by obedience to His commandments (10, 12, 14, 17) so that we will bear much fruit (16). In all of these things, Jesus Christ calls us His friends (14) because He has told us all that God wants us to know (16). This is abounding in Christ!

II. The _____ of the _____ (18-25)

A. _____ for the hate (18-21)

1. _____ (18-20)

2. _____ (21)

B. _____ of the hate (22)

We know that the world will hate us because it hated Jesus first (18, 20) and because we are not of the world but have been chosen out of the world (19). The world sinned in that they rejected Jesus' words (22) and Jesus' works (24). In all these things they did not know the Father (21) but have unwittingly fulfilled the lament of the Old Testament (25).

C. _____ toward the hate (Mt. 5:10-12;

Phil. 2:12-16)