

## AN ABIDING RELATIONSHIP

[jkroberts\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:jkroberts_us@yahoo.com)

[www.pacolethillsbaptist.org](http://www.pacolethillsbaptist.org)

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John 15:9-16

1. Last week we looked at the relationship between abiding in Christ and bearing much fruit.
2. We saw that God the Father is the one who tends the vineyard, and His goal is to make it abundantly productive.
3. Just like a productive, well tended farm reflects on its owner so our productivity brings glory to God and reveals that we belong to Him and are being cultivated by Him. 8  
“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (become My disciples).”
4. In the passage we are looking at today Jesus touched on several important truths that will manifest themselves in the lives of those who are abiding in Him.”

### **I. Because we are loved we will love. 9**

- A. Jesus expressed what I would call love’s continuum.  
“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also love you; abide in My love...this is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” 9, 12
- B. We are to rest in or abide in Christ’s love for us.
- C. It is absolute confidence in Christ’s love for us that allows us to victoriously face all of life’s difficulties.
- D. It is Christ’s love in us that motivates us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and to follow Jesus wherever He may lead.
- E. Loving others, especially other Christians, as Christ has loved us involves laying down our lives for them. 13
- F. John later defined love this way in 1 John 3:16, “We know (define) love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

### **II. Because we love we will lovingly obey. 10**

- A. Obedience to Christ and abiding in Christ’s love go hand in hand.
- B. We cannot be living lives characterized by disobedience and expect to have an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Jesus used His relationship with the Father as an example and stated that our relationship with Him is to mirror His relationship with the Father.

### **III. Because we are abiding in Christ’s love we will experience His joy. 11**

- A. Jesus even prayed towards this end when He lifted His voice to God and said, “But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.” John 17:13
- B. The joy that characterized the life of Jesus and transcended all of His trials and tribulations will manifest itself in our lives.
- C. That which brought joy to the heart of Jesus will bring joy to our hearts.”

- D. I like the way this verse reads in the Amplified Version, “I have told you these things that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be full measure and complete and overflowing.”
- E. We have the potential of grieving or making glad our glorious Lord.
- F. If we are in a right relationship with Jesus what grieves Him will grieve us and what brings Him joy will bring us joy.

**IV. Because we are abiding in Christ we will enjoy a special relationship with Him.  
14-16**

- A. Verses 13 and 14 go together.
- B. Jesus was about to lay down His life for those He referred to as friends.
- C. He clearly stated, “You are My friends if you do what I command you.” or, “You are My friends if you lay down your life for Me.”
- D. Jesus went on to say that His friends would enjoy special privileges.
  - 1. They would enjoy spiritual insight and understanding.
  - 2. They would enjoy special status.
    - a. To go and bear fruit.
    - b. To have their fruit remain. (Their lives would have eternal significance.)
    - c. To bring this about through prayer.

**APPLICATION**

- 1. Are these four truths descriptive of your relationship with Jesus?
- 2. I believe that the great sin of most Christians in our day is their willingness to settle for something other than a deep, personal and intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3. Many are content to feed on the crumbs that fall from the Master’s table rather than to experience the fullness of His house.
- 4. Jesus laid down His life for us in order that He might enjoy us and we might enjoy Him.
- 5. May God awaken in each of us a deep and consuming desire to live in intimate fellowship with our Savior and Lord.