**JOHN 15:3-4**

**4/10/19**

**Intro – Tonight, We Continue Our Study In John 15, And Jesus’ Great Teaching, Using The Imagery Of A Vine.**

**(Slide 2 – Vine Photo)**

**Last Week We Discovered That Jesus Fashions Himself As The Vine – The Centerpiece Of The Plant; And That There Are Two Types Of Branches, Which Extend From The Vine: The *Fruitful* Branches, And The *Fruitless* Branches.**

**1. Can Someone Tell Us What We Determined These Two Branches Represent?**

**(Slide 3)**

The True Believer.

The False, Apostate, Who Is Connected To The Church, But Not A True Believer.

**2. Who Can Remind Us What Last Week’s Lesson Taught Us That Happens To The Fruitful Branches? *(They Are Pruned)***

**3. Who Can Remind Us What God Ultimately Does To The Fruitless Branches? *(They Are Cut Off)***

**4. *Tonight, Jesus Is Going To Begin To Give The Fruitful Branches – True Christians – Instructions On Spiritual Growth And Maturity.***

**5. V. 4a – Who Can Tell Us The First Thing Jesus Says To Believers In Verse 4? *(Abide In Him)***

**6. The Word “Abide” Is A Key Word In This Verse, An In This Chapter. It Occurs 10 Times In Chapter 15. *As Such, We Need To Make Sure We Understand The Meaning.***

**(Slide 4)**

“The Maintenance Of An Unbroken Connection Rather Than Repose, And Bespeaks Of The Necessity Of A Constant Relationship Between The Believer And His Lord, If The Resultant Life Is To Be Productive.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* Tenney

**7. We Are About To See That “Abiding” In Christ Is A Critical Component Of Successful, Fruitful Christian Living. The Question We Must Then Ask Is…**

**(Slide 5)**

How Do I “Abide” In Christ?

**8. What Are The Means And The Methods, By Which We Can Maintain An *Unbroken Connection* To Christ? (*Make List* - *Prayer - The Word - Worship - Service - Righteous Living)***

**9. V. 4b – The Next Statement By Christ Is A Promise To Us As We Abide In Him: *He Will Abide In Us!!***

**10. In The Natural Sense Of A Plant, What Does A Vine Do For Its Branches? *(The Vine Is The Life-Giving Source Of The Branches. The Life Of The Vine, Flows Through The Branches)***

**11. As We Abide In Christ, His Power, Essence, And Characteristics Flow Through Us!!**

**12. V. 4c – Next Jesus Gives A Bit Of Information That Is Simple, Common Sense To Anyone. *You Do Not To Have A Degree In Horticulture To Understand This Self-Evident, Obvious Statement.* What Does Jesus Say?**

**13. The Branch Of A Plant Is Not Directly Connected To The Soil, From Which It Can Extract The Water And Nutrients It Needs To Survive. What Is The Branch’s Source Of The *Stuff* Necessary To Survive? *(The Vine)***

**(Slide 6 – Branch/Vine Photo)**

**14. V. 4d - Who Would Like To Tell Us The Last Incredible Statement Jesus Makes In Verse 4?**

**15. How Much Are We Able To Accomplish In Life, Without Abiding In Christ?**

**16. Then Why Do We Try To Live The Christian Life Without Abiding In Christ? *(Go Back To List Of Things Necessary To Abide)***

**17. V. 5a – Verse 5 Summarizes What We Have Learned In The Last Two Lessons.**

**(Slide 7)**

“I Am The Vine, Ye *Are* The Branches.”

**18. V. 5b – Now Jesus Makes A Most Magnificent Promise To We, Who Are His True Branches. What Is It?**

**19. Again Class, How Is It That Jesus Ensures We Bear More And Better Fruit, As We Abide In Him? (*Pruning*)**

**20. How Many Of Us Want To Bear More Of The Fruit Of The Spirit?**

**(Slide 8)**

Galatians 5:22-23  
But The Fruit Of The Spirit Is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith,  
Meekness, Temperance: Against Such There Is No Law.

**21. How Many Want To See A Pair Of These Coming At You?**

**(Slide 8 – Photo Of Shears)**

**22. V. 5c – Someone Please Read The End Of Verse 5.**

**23. How Much Is “Nothing?”**

***24. Next Time, We Will Discover That It Is Worth Whatever Effort We Must Make To “Abide.”***

1. Tenney, Merrill C. *John: The Gospel of Belief*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1976 (page 228). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)