

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

A quick review:

The four aspects of being a child of God according to John's gospel:

- Loving God
- Loving each other...loving people with the love that He loves us with.
- Believing in His son, Jesus.
- Keeping His commandments.

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. ²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. **John 14:21-27 NASB**

The Spirit of God: Translating love into obedience. (John 14-25)

- Jesus equates love with obedience. (**v21**)
- Obedient love brings the love of the Godhead to us and brings a deeper disclosure of Jesus to us.
 - He will reveal Himself, manifest Himself to us.
 - He will let Himself be clearly seen. (**1 John 5:1-5**)
- Loving obedience produces a reciprocal abiding. (**John 14:23-25**)
 - Disciplined intimacy – being able to find God in the secret place and say 'yes' to Him; and then make the same choice 'out there' as you did in the secret place.

1 Peter, an apostle (a special messenger) of Jesus Christ, [writing] to the elect exiles of the dispersion scattered (sowed) abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² Who were chosen *and* foreknown by God the Father and consecrated (sanctified, made holy) by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and to be sprinkled with [His] blood: May grace (spiritual blessing) and peace be given you in increasing abundance [that spiritual peace to be realized in and through Christ, freedom from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts]. ³ Praised (honored, blessed) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **1 Peter 1:1-3 AMPC**

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace

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I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. ²⁸You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; ³¹but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here. **John 14:26-31 NASB**

- Jesus and the Father will live with believers in a powerful way. Present and prevalent!!
- When the helper, the Holy Spirit comes, He will teach you ALL things and remind you of what I have told you. (**John 13:34-45** and **John 14:1;11**, for example.)
- The Holy Spirit will represent Me, act on My behalf, and teach you.
- The impact of **John 14:27-31**, a life changing story for me.

The Holy Spirit: Sent to teach us all things. (John 14:26-31)

- He will teach us what we need to know for the moment and moments to come. (**v26**)
- He will remind us of the truth already spoken or shown to us. (**v26**)
 - He will remind us of the cleansing and pruning words that will enable us to abide and obey so fruitfulness is not diminished.
- Jesus is leaving the disciples, but He is leaving His peace...His Spirit of Peace. (**v27**)
- Jesus gives them these truths to prepare them ahead of time for the pressure and darkness to come. (**v28, 29**)
- Jesus sheds light on His I.D. and His M.O.
 - Satan has nothing in Jesus. No claim, no hold, or authority. (**v29, 30**)
 - Jesus is Light...NO darkness in Him.
 - Jesus' MO – He did everything to prove to the world that He loved the Father. (This motive is the fruit of abiding in Him and His word abiding in you.) Abide and lovingly obey, that's how Jesus lived.

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I

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have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

Disciples' Relation to Each Other¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷This I command you, that you love one another. **John 15:1-17 NASB**

- The Pruning Process: **v1-3**
 - a) Jesus: The Vine
 - b) God: The Vine Dresser
 - c) Believers: The Branches
 - d) Pruning: means to make clean, purify moral/spiritual cleansing, training.
 - e) He prunes/cleanses fruit bearing (**v2**) branches only.
 - f) He sends His cleansing Word for the purpose of His people bearing more fruit.
 - g) A cleansing or pruning Word is about the Harvest...
 - h) His disciples had already been pruned by His life-giving authoritative Words. (**v3**)

Note: We have had a faulty concept about pruning. The purpose of pruning is so that we can bear more fruit. So, the Lord speaks a cleansing, 'cutting-back' word to us in the midst of fruitfulness so that the fruit is able to remain and to increase. This principle is true at every level. Jesus is pursuing us to develop harvest-eyes in us. Fruitfulness is not to result in us being fat and happy, but rather it is to strengthen us to receive a cleansing word so that we can be healthy, abiding in Him obediently, which clears the way for more fruit.

In the natural realm, pruning is a necessary process. The branches need to be pruned or 'cleansed' or they will get straggly and 'grow in' on themselves. Pruning helps a branch grow in the right direction and for the designed purpose. You prune a branch to stop it from wasting its energy and being 'unproductive'. Pruning keeps a branch from growing inward and getting tangled up. Pruning causes the branch to grow outwards and towards the light.

- Our Response: Abide, obey, and pray. (**v4-8**)
 - a) Vine ripened fruit only comes from abiding in Him.
 - Activity and strategy alone only produce what we can self-generate.
 - b) Abiding: a continual living connection; a living reciprocal relationship with Jesus.
 - c) Abiding: living in vital union with Jesus in the same unbroken way that He lives in union with us. (see **I Corinthians 6:17**)
 - d) Abiding in Him and He in you produce much fruit, lots of fruit and lots of varieties of fruit.

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Note: apart from abiding, we can do a lot, but it amounts to nothing. (Wood-Hay-Stubble) We can 'do' church apart from abiding, but we can't 'do' the Kingdom. It takes union to produce birth. Apart from this union we can do nothing that He "Fathers".

- e) Failure to abide means that we produce no God-initiated fruit. Failure to abide results in the 'scrap heap.' (v6)
- f) Abiding and obeying results in answered prayers for us.
- g) Abiding in Him results in God being glorified.
 - God is glorified when we abide in Him and bear much fruit.
 - God is glorified when our walk with Him is marked by answered prayer.
 - God is glorified when we live lives that 'validate' our discipleship.
- Abiding in Him is a love issue. (v9-11)
 - a) Jesus loves us with the love of God, and we are to set our roots deeply in His love.
 - b) Jesus equates love and obedience, seeing and hearing God's will and living accordingly. (John 14:31, 8:29, 15:11)
 - c) This way of life results in the joy.
- Abiding in Him and our relationship with other disciples. (v12-17)
 - a) Sacrificial love: loving like Jesus loves, proves our friendship with Him and with others.
 - b) He identifies His disciples as His friends. (v15)
 - This friendship flows from our abiding in Him and is based on 'intimate entrustments'. (see Psalm 25:14)
 - c) Jesus makes choice of you, so you could choose Him.
 - d) He chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit that lasts and increases, so that our prayer could be limit-less, bound-less, and answered.
 - e) Don't forget...I command you to love one another.
 - We are empowered to love each other through our loving and abiding relationship with Jesus. Intimate obedience to Him produces love for others.
- This is the heart of the abiding fruit bearing, reciprocal relationship with God. Jesus commands us to abide in Him because loving one another flows from this living relationship, bringing glory to the Father and the Son.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption. **I Corinthians 1:30 NASB**

But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]. **I Corinthians 1:30 AMPC**