

CITYWEST CHURCH

09.08.2026 - 10 AM

THE FRUIT OF ABIDING.

Abiding isn't passive waiting. It's active faithfulness.

Abiding is more than spending time with Jesus; it is allowing His truth, His love, and His life to shape every part of who we are.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NLT)

What does abiding actually look like?

If John 15 gives us the picture of abiding, 1 John gives us the practice.

The Apostle John wrote both books. In the Gospel of John, he records Jesus' words about abiding. In his first letter, written decades later, he explains what abiding looks like in the everyday life of believers.

The churches John wrote to were facing false teachers, cultural pressure, and growing compromise. They weren't simply being tempted to stop believing in Jesus—they were being tempted to drift from Him.

Let's read all of 1 John 2:

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ²He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

³And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

A New Commandment

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. ⁸ Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.

⁹ If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer,^[a] that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves a fellow believer^[b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

¹² I am writing to you who are God’s children
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.^[c]

¹³ I am writing to you who are mature in the faith^[d]
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.
I am writing to you who are young in the faith
because you have won your battle with the evil one.

¹⁴ I have written to you who are God’s children
because you know the Father.
I have written to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.
I have written to you who are young in the faith
because you are strong.
God’s word lives in your hearts,
and you have won your battle with the evil one.

Do Not Love This World

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Warning about Antichrists

¹⁸ Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. ¹⁹ These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.

²⁰ But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit,^[a] and all of you know the truth. ²¹ So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. ²² And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ.^[f] Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist.^[a] ²³ Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. ²⁵ And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

²⁶ I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. ²⁷ But you have received the Holy Spirit,^[h] and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit^[i] teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

Living as Children of God

²⁸ And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

²⁹ Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

1 John 2 (NLT)

So big chapter, but there are keys here that highlight the fruit of an abiding life. We all want that fruit but it doesnt come by striving but by abiding. Lets go through sections of this chapter to see what the fruit of abiding produces in our lives.

1. ABIDING PRODUCES OBEDIENCE.

³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:3-6 (NLT)

It is connection that produces obedience in us.

I know God but don't obey his commandments is like bad lip syncing.

Jesus said:

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

Luke 6:45 (NLT)

The good news is, it's not a striving if you are abiding, it is God who is at work in and through you.

God doesn't start on the outside, he starts on the inside, when we let him obedience isn't hard, it's easy because his love protects us.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Phil 2:13 (NLT)

"The Christian life is not about becoming something we are not, but becoming who we already are in Christ."

– Eugene Peterson.

2. ABIDING PRODUCES CHRISTLIKE LOVE.

If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer,^[a] that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves a fellow believer^[b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

1 John 2:9-11 (NLT)

Abiding and forgiveness meet in loving our fellow believers.

It is not just our obedience, but our relationships that show we are abiding in Christ.

Jesus said:

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 13:35 (NLT)

Living in the light.

When you walk into a dark room and switch on the light. The light doesn't create the mess. It reveals it.

God's presence works exactly the same way.

Sometimes we think we're becoming worse because suddenly we're aware of impatience...

Pride. Selfishness. Anger.

The light is exposing what was already there, and exposing is the first step toward healing.

3. ABIDING REQUIRES REMAINING IN THE TRUTH

So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. ²⁵ And in this fellowship, we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

1 John 2:24-25 (NLT)

John understood something that feels incredibly relevant today. Culture constantly changes.

Truth doesn't. Every generation has new ideas.

New philosophies. New movements. New definitions. New pressures.

But Jesus remains the same.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

Today people often ask: "What feels true?" John asks : "What is true?"

Presence without truth becomes emotionalism. Truth without presence becomes legalism. The Holy Spirit always brings both.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (NLT)

Not one truth among many. The Truth.

Abiding means allowing Scripture to shape us, not asking Scripture to approve us.

"Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning."

Dallas Willard.

4. ABIDING PRODUCES CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST RETURN.

And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

²⁹ Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

1 John 2:28-29 (NLT)

John finishes this chapter by lifting our eyes from the present to eternity.

Throughout this chapter, John has been asking, "What does it look like to remain in Christ?" He now gives us the final answer.

A life that abides today is a life that is ready for tomorrow.

Confidence, not fear.

*John says that those who remain in Christ will be "**full of courage.**"*

*The Greek word translated confidence (παρρησία, parrēsia) carries the idea of **boldness, freedom of speech, joyful assurance, and confident access.***

It's the picture of someone walking into the presence of a loving Father with nothing to hide.

Imagine the difference between a child who has deliberately disobeyed and hears Dad's car pull into the driveway, and a child who has been faithfully living in relationship with their father. One hides. The other runs to the door.

John says that's how Christ's return will be.

Those who know Him won't be trying to avoid Him.

They'll be running toward Him.

Not because they've lived perfect lives.

But because they've remained in Him.

Our confidence has never been in our performance.

Our confidence has always been in Christ's finished work.

Abiding changes how we live today because it changes what we're living for.

When you know Jesus is coming again, every decision gains eternal significance.

You forgive more quickly. You hold possessions more loosely.

You love people more intentionally. You serve more faithfully.

You share the Gospel more boldly. You don't waste your life chasing things that won't last.

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20 (NLT)

*The return of Christ reminds us that **everything we build apart from Him is temporary, but everything we do for Him has eternal value.***

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next."

– C.S. Lewis.

Abiding isn't passive waiting. It's active faithfulness.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS.

- 1. What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to move from simply knowing His Word to actually living it out?**
- 2. With so many voices competing for our attention, what helps you remain grounded in Jesus, His Word, and the truth—and what could you change this week to abide more intentionally?**
- 3. How does knowing Jesus is returning change the way you live, make decisions, and use your time today?**

