

Abiding

Valleys Family Church Sermon
Speaker: Phil Gibson
13th October 2013

Message last time: In Christ

Position. Who we are. This is true of all of us who are Christians.

This is vitally important to know.

Reading: John 15ff

Jn 15:1-6

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Abide. Not remain!

=Maintain a living relationship with Me.

- Prayer
- Fellowship with/walking with

In Christ = position, all the same

Abiding - Varying degrees of.

Col 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Receive = welcome, hold to, take. **Continue to do so!** Walk, live in Him.

Gal 2:20 - when I was saved thought I was just being forgiven! So much more!

Making use of

Jesus is the Vine, we are the branches.

How does the branch get life & sustenance? By being united to the vine, drawing what it needs from the vine.

A couple of years ago I came across the phrase, "making use of Christ". I want to unpack that for us today.

His offices - titles, position, character.

What is He? Ask!

Split into groups Ask this question.

Then, before asking for feedback, refer back to branch drawing strength & sustenance from the vine.

Whatever Jesus is = He is that to you!

Feedback from groups - He is that to you!

Draw strength from Jesus.

Song 1:13 My Beloved is to me...

Priest

King

Prophet

Hiding place

Provider

Friend

Healer

One who makes men holy

Faithful

Merciful

Baptiser in the Holy Spirit

Prayer hearer

Complete in Him

Col 2:9-10

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled and made complete in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Our only fulness is found in Him. Not in job, family, achievements etc.

If we base our life on these things we will be left empty. If tho, we know what it is to be IN Christ & abiding WITH Him then we will be fruitful & full.

Practical

What is Jesus to you?

Last time I encouraged you to seek out who you are in Christ.

This time earnestly seek out who Jesus is.

Tozer - *What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*

Put Jesus on!

Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Paul here tells to "put on the Lord Jesus".

How do we do that?

- ✓ Realise our position in Him
- ✓ Abide in Him.
- ✓ Not automatic!

Daily you get dressed, daily you decide what to wear.

So, daily identify with who you are in Christ. Daily maintain a living relationship with Him. Don't think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Abide! Living relationship.

Abide in Him and God will abide & maintain a living relationship with us.