

Sunday, May 21, 2017

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## Union with Christ in Jesus' Own Words: Abiding

John 15:1–17

(black Bibles page 901; Children's Bibles page 1333)

A little review from the first two weeks of this series...

What is union with Christ? Here's how some Scriptures picture it:

- Husband and wife: Christ is the husband, the church is the wife. (Ephesians 5)
- Clothes: We put on Christ. (Ephesians 4)
- Temple: Christ is the foundation and we are living stones joined to the foundation (1 Peter 2:4–5)
- Head and body: Christ is the head, we are the body. (1 Cor. 12)
- And from Jesus' own mouth? The vine and the branches (John 15:1-17)

The vine and the branches:

- Union with Christ: The vine is *essential* to the life of the branch. It's not optional!
- Pruning (verse 2)

- “You can do nothing”? (verse 5)
- The word “abide” is used 11 times in this passage. What a perfect word!

Look at verses 9-11 carefully. Extravagant Grace *and* Radical Discipleship? Yes.

- “The church is in desperate need of a way to express the grace of the gospel *and* the demand of the gospel in a way that enhances both without canceling either. If you have ever asked these questions, union with Christ is your answer.” Rankin Wilbourne, *Union with Christ*. (Recommended book!)
- It's like sailing...

What does abiding look like practically?