



Becoming Like Christ

Thank you for attending tonight. It's a privilege to meet together and focus our attention on God's Word, specifically the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which are recorded in John 13–17.

Let's unite our hearts in prayer as we begin.

Father in heaven, we come to you through the wonderful, powerful, work of your son, Jesus Christ. We worship you and hunger and thirst to be like our Lord Jesus. We thank you for your love revealed to us in and through Him. We thank you for the confidence we have that you will speak to us through your Word tonight. Lord Jesus, teach us to abide in you, encourage us through your presence in our lives, and fill us with your joy as we study your word.

Father, thank you for your abiding presence in your Son and His abiding presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit whom you have given to us.

Last night we saw that Jesus intended His disciples (both then and now) to become like He was in this world in the way they love. Most of us know we ought to love like He loved. That's what He commanded and we are to realize that for Jesus to give us the command to love as He loved is to also give us the authority and power to love in His name. Loving as Jesus loved is the fruit of one's relationship with Him.

Jesus knew the question that would arise in the minds of his disciples: How are we going to love one another like you love us? This morning we are going to learn the answer to that question because Jesus repeatedly explained to them how He loved and how they were going to be able to love as He loved. The answer is this: if Jesus' disciples are to love like Christ, they must ****abide like Christ.**

Becoming Like Christ

How are we going to become like Christ?

Last night we saw that Jesus intended His disciples (both then and now) to become like He was in this world in the way they love. Most of us know we ought to love like He loved. That's what He commanded and we are to realize that for Jesus to give us the command to love as He loved is to also give us the authority and power to love in His name. Loving as Jesus loved is the fruit of one's relationship with Him.

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Becoming Like Christ

By Abiding Like Christ

Abide

Definition: To stay, reside, dwell, or remain in a fixed state.

Concept: To be one with or to be united with.

Let's consider first what it means to abide: Definition

The concept is this:

As we read what Jesus said in his last words with his disciples, I want you to notice how often he talked about this idea or practice of abiding. I counted 44 times he used the concept of abiding in his last address to them. Hm. Why do you think he repeated that concept so many times if it wasn't absolutely vital to the way they were to live their lives in fellowship with Him in the future? The Apostle John certainly got the message because he used the term "abide" 18 times in his first epistle.

Let's look at some examples of this in these chapters and may the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts as if we had been there and needed to hear. Put yourself in the disciples' sandals and listen as if these were the last words you were going to hear Jesus say to you before He leaves you.

Jesus abides in the Father

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father

Jesus was going to His Father—to dwell with Him, to take his place of authority and glory. Read and continue

The Father abides in Jesus

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God...

Although the word abide isn't used, the concept is clearly communicated by John.

The Father has given everything into Jesus' hands –meaning the Father is working in and through Jesus. This idea is affirmed later in Jesus' discourse to them.

The Father abides in Jesus

John 13:20 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

The concept of abiding is contained in this statement. To receive Jesus is to receive the Father who sent Him. How can that be? Only if the Father is abiding in Jesus.

The Father abides in Jesus

Jesus abides in the Father

Jesus was authorized by the Father to love us to the end--to the point that we would love one another as He loved us.

Jesus wants us to know some very important information

1. That the Father is abiding and working in Him not only here on earth but also as he goes back to the Father.
2. That His going to the Father is part of God, the Father's plan and that He had more work to do from heaven.

Jesus has prepared a place with His Father for us

John 14:2 “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

READ For us to be able to love, we had to have the same dwelling place available to us that Jesus had--a dwelling place, and abiding place--a place to live with the Father, so we could have fellowship. Fellowship is the result of two people abiding or dwelling together in love. Jesus said that there are many dwelling places. What could he mean. He certainly isn't talking about places to dwell when they die. The entire message is aimed at giving his disciples peace in this world during a time of great tribulation.

Jesus is the way to the Father

John 14:4 “And you know the way where I am going.”

John 14:5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

READ Jesus is the way to the Father. Only by the sacrificial death, the bathing of which Jesus spoke in John 13, can we approach the Father, can we dwell with Him.

Jesus is the truth of the Father. The Father loves His own. That is the truth. He was working through Jesus to love His own and give them eternal life.

Jesus is the life of the Father. To abide in Jesus is to abide in God, Himself. It is to dwell in the Father's house. The word for “dwelling place” is the same as abode--the place where we dwell or abide.

The Father Abides in Jesus

John 14:7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

John 14:8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

READ Why is it “from now on”? If you had known me you would have known my Father. His point is simple and clear--Jesus is one with the Father. The Father abides in Jesus

Jesus abides in the Father
The Father abides in Jesus

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

READ Jesus lives in the father’s house. He abides, dwells in the Father and the Father abides or dwells in Jesus.

Jesus abides in the Father
The Father abides in Jesus

John 14:10 “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

John 14:11 “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

READ Notice how Jesus draws the attention of the disciples to His works. The evidence that the Father is abiding in Jesus is that Jesus does the works of the Father. Another way to view the works of Jesus is to view his works as the Father working in and through Him.

The works are the evidence
of abiding.

John 14:11 “Believe Me that I am in
the Father and the Father is in Me;
otherwise believe because of the works
themselves.

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you,
he who believes in Me, the works that I
do, he will do also; and greater works
than these he will do; because I go to
the Father.

READ: Let us not miss what Jesus is telling us. Jesus went to the Father so that the works of the Father and Son could be done in us. He went to make us one with the Father so the Father and Son could be glorified through the works He does in us as we abide or live in oneness and union with Him.

The Holy Spirit abides in the believer forever

John 14:16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 14:18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

READ 16–17 In these verses we have the answer to our question about how we are going to love as Jesus loved. The solution is: The Holy Spirit, another helper the same as Jesus will be sent by the Father. As Jesus abides in the Father, the Father abides in Him and the Holy Spirit is sent to abide in believers. READ Vs. 18 reveals the continuation of this concept of abiding—Jesus abides in the Holy Spirit. He told them that when the HS came, He also would come.

The Holy Spirit abides in the believer forever

John 14:19 “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

READ The result of this abiding relationship between believers and the Holy Spirit will be the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the soul of the believer.

The Holy Spirit gives the Jesus' commandments

John 14:20 “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:21 “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.”

READ In the day the Holy Spirit is sent to a believer, in that day he knows the abiding relationship has been established. The work of the Father and Son in sending the HS to you is evidence that Jesus abides in the Father, and you abide in Jesus, and He abides in you. How do you know if the Father and Son have given you the HS?

You abide in Christ. You will be taught the commandments of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

You will keep them because you love Jesus Christ.

The Father and Son will love you and Jesus Christ will reveal Himself to you.

Abiding like Christ

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps this will be a new thought to you. The words of Christ--the Scriptures are dwelling places where you can live or abide in Christ.

Jesus discloses Himself to those who abide in Him

John 14:21 “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.”

READ Jesus went to the Father so believers could know that they abide/live in the Father's house and in Him.

The evidence is the same as it was with Jesus: The Father did His work in Jesus, the Son.

Now, the HS does the work of Jesus Christ in believers so they and others know that that they abide/live in Christ and that Jesus Christ abides/lives in them.

Jesus discloses Himself to
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John 14:21 “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.”

John 14:22 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?”

READ Judas asked what changed, what has happened that Jesus would reveal Himself to believers and not to the world.

What happened? Holy Spirit pours out God's love

John 14:23 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.

John 14:24 "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.

What has happened? Believers love Jesus and preserve, guard, and value His Word because He went to the Father and sent the HS to make the Word alive. **READ** It is like each scripture is a room in God's house. And each room is empty until you come into it and meet Jesus there for fellowship. Obedience is implied. The Father's and Son's love will be poured out in believers as they abide (make our abode) within them.

John taught this very truth in his first epistle in 1 Jo. 4:12-13.

What happened? Holy Spirit pours out God's love

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

HERE'S HOW JOHN TOOK THESE VERSES– READ

Let's look at how the Apostle Paul put it to the Romans and Corinthians.

What happened? Holy Spirit pours out God's love

Romans 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Here's how he said it to the Romans. READ

Here's how he said it to the Corinthians.

What happened? Holy Spirit
pours out God's love

**2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ
controls us...**

READ

Jesus speaks while abiding &
Holy Spirit speaks while
abiding

John 14:25 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.

John 14:26 “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.

READ Notice the importance of abiding – Jesus speaks while abiding with them and when the Holy Spirit comes, He also will abide with them and speak again the things Jesus spoke to them.

Jesus' peace comes from His
abiding in us and we in Him

John 14:27 “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.

Understanding that the Lord Jesus abides/lives in the Father and the Father in Him, and that Jesus abides/lives in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit abides/lives in Jesus, and that the Father/Son/HS abide in us and we in them allows us to grasp the full meaning of John 14:27. READ

Abiding in Jesus Christ is the way the peace of Christ is given to us in the midst of a troubled world. We have His peace because He abides in us too.

Abiding in His Father and the Father abiding in Jesus was the source of Jesus' peace. Abiding in Jesus is to abide in the Father and we know that the Father and the Son are abiding in us and therefore we can have Jesus' peace.

So we don't need to be troubled or fearful.

Peace of Christ comes from
the Word of Christ abiding
in you

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken
to you, so that in Me you may have
peace. In the world you have
tribulation, but take courage; I have
overcome the world.”

READ Jesus was concerned that his disciples be prepared for what was ahead. He knew they would need peace in this world of tribulation. He told them so in this chapter. If they hated Him, they would hate them. Ever since Jesus' coming the kingdom of God on earth has been under great tribulation. How are they to cope with such hostility in the heavenlies and on earth? The same way He did--abiding in Him and His word.

Peace of Christ comes from His Word abiding in you

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Apostle Paul confirms this idea that Jesus wanted his disciples to understand before He returned to the Father. READ He had been sent by the Father to do the work of the Father – wash us of our sins.

He returned to the Father so He and the Father could send the HS to abide/live in us so we could abide/live in Him. We could then have peace and love in this world of tribulation.

The Father cares for the vine
and the branches

John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and My
Father is the vinedresser.

Every person born is a branch

John 15:2 “Every 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.
John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Everyone in the world is connected to Jesus by virtue of their creation—
John 1:3

The Father cares for the vine and the branches

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The word of Christ cleanses

**John 15:2 “Every 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.
John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.**

If a person doesn't bear fruit, then he is taken away from Christ.

If a person does bear fruit, then he is cleaned or pruned so he can continue bearing fruit.

The word for “prunes” and “clean” are two forms of the same word, katharos/kathairo

The word of Christ is the pruning agent used by the father, the vinedresser. Jesus had previously told them they were clean. It is by the enduring word of Christ that we are born again according to Peter-1 Pet. 1

I have suggested that Jesus wanted them to understand how they were to bear fruit for the glory of God--it would come through His abiding in them and they in him and that would be accomplished through the HS abiding in them.

What is it that cleans us and prepares us to bear more fruit? It is the word of Christ that He love them and has come from the Father to love them to the end. He has said that He is going to wash them completely from their sin--that cleanses them with love and forgiveness.

He has told them to love each other as He has loved them--that cleanses them as they minister to each other.

He has told them he's going to the Father so the HS can come abide in them and give them His Word so they can wash one another and abide in Him through keeping His Word. That cleanses them from selfishness and self-ambition.

What is the key to all of this taking place? Abiding - The F. and S. and HS abiding in the believer and the believer abiding in Christ.

Fruitfulness = Jesus abiding
in you and you abiding
in Jesus

**John 15:4 “Abide 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.**

**John 15:5 “I 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.**

A man without the word of Christ abiding in Him dries up

John 15:6 “If 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.

Jesus has said that the one who keeps his word is the one who loves Him. So one of the ways we abide in Him is by abiding in His Word. His Word is our abiding place.

His word—You are clean.

His word—Love as I have loved you.

His word—My peace I give to you.

A man without the word of Christ abiding in Him is a man who is not abiding in Christ—He will dry up. He will do nothing to bear fruit for God—the fruit of love.

Abiding in Jesus = His Word
abiding in you

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Fruitfulness with the word of Christ glorifies our Father

**John 15:8 “My Father is glorified by
this, that you bear much fruit, and so
prove to be My disciples.”**

The fruitfulness of loving each other glorifies our Father.

Abide in Jesus' Word

John 15:9 “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

How did the Father love Jesus?

He gave Jesus His Word.

How has Jesus loved us?

He gave us His Word.

How do we abide in His love?

We abide in His Word.

To abide like Christ is to
abide in the word of Christ.

**John 14:10 “Do you not believe that I
am in the Father, and the Father is in
Me? The words that I say to you I do not
speak on My own initiative, but the
Father abiding in Me does His works.**

To abide like Christ is to
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**John 14:24 “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.**

To abide like Christ is to
abide in the word of Christ.

**John 15:10 “If you keep My
commandments, you will abide in My
love; just as I have kept My Father’s
commandments and abide in His love.**

Abiding like Christ
results in joy

Jesus desires His joy to be
in us

John 15:11 “These things I have
spoken to you so that My joy may be in
you, and that your joy may be made
full.

Jesus desires our joy to be full

John 16:22 “Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

John 16:24 “Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

Jesus desires His joy to be in us

**John 17:13 “But now I come to You;
and these things I speak in the world
so that they may have My joy made full
in themselves.**

These things (abiding in Christ so we can love as He loved) were spoken that we might have His joy in us.

1. He knows. If we abide in Him as He abides in our Father, He knows we'll have His joy because abiding/living/trusting/obeying His Father makes Him joyful.

Abiding Like Christ

- ◆ Jesus abides in the Father
- ◆ The Father's Word abides in Jesus
- ◆ Abiding in the Father's Word produces love
- ◆ Abiding in the Father brings peace
- ◆ Loving the Father and others filled Jesus with joy.
- ◆ We abide in Jesus
- ◆ Jesus' Word abides in us
- ◆ Abiding in Jesus' Word produces love
- ◆ Abiding in Jesus' Word brings peace
- ◆ Loving Jesus and others fills us with His joy

To become like Christ we
must love like Christ.

If we are going to love like Christ
we must abide like Christ.

My prayer is that we have all been encouraged through the words of Christ to become more like Him by understanding the importance of the principle of abiding.

Read slide:

Most of the time the emphasis of teaching on abiding is that the responsibility falls on us to abide in Christ. It is true, that is our privilege and responsibility if we are to become like Him.

However, there is a more important emphasis given by the Lord Jesus and it is this powerful truth.

We will become like Christ
because he abides in us!

We are going to love like Jesus Christ
because the life and love of God
abides in all believers.

And since the life and love of God dwells in believers, they want to become more like Christ and abide in Him each and every day because they understand it is the only way they can bear fruit for the glory of God. Is this true of you? Have you been born again by the Spirit of God? Do you see evidence of the life of God, the life and love of Jesus Christ dwelling in your soul? If not, I encourage you to bow before Him this evening before you go to bed and repent for not seeking life in union with Jesus Christ. God sent His Son to love you and become your substitute on the cross, to take your penalty for living apart from Him, in your own strength, for your own name and glory. Will you humble yourself before Him and recognize that life comes from Jesus Christ and through Him alone. Will you surrender yourself to Him and call upon Him for forgiveness and eternal life? Here's the glorious truth I leave with you: If you will go into Him seeking life in Him, you'll find Him to be in you. You will find Him.

What a tremendous truth our Lord Jesus gave to His disciples and to us in John 13-17. I hope you've been encouraged to live your life to the end applying the abiding principle.