

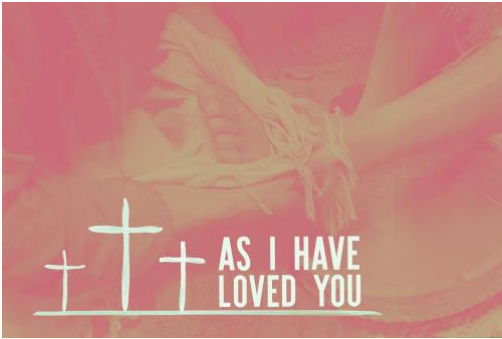
Sermon #2: His Life, Your Life

April 30, 2023

Text: [John 15:1-17](#)

View on our [Church App](#)

View on our [Website](#)



Sermon Open

Everyone who belongs to Christ is received by God into an eternal fellowship that exists between the Father, Son, and Spirit. The word **fellowship** means to **participate together in a common life**. This common life is not a hobby we share or a life season we share or even like-personalities we share. In the church, we participate in the ongoing life of our LORD Jesus- worshipping Him, learning from Him, RELYing on Him, suffering for him, and partnering in His mission – **TOGETHER**. When this is our primary aim, Jesus will form among us connections, friendships, and even love for one another.

Scripture Exposition

Jesus gives us a beautiful illustration of this Fellowship in [John 15](#). He tells us that He is like a vine and is Father is the Vinedresser ([v1](#)). This is a picture of the eternal relationship of God, with the Father caring for the son. Jesus then teaches that anyone who is his true disciple is grafted into the vine as a branch ([v5](#)). The Father now cares for these branches the SAME as He cares for the vine; and the vine, gives life to the branches! Everything the branch can want or need, the vine supplies to them. When Jesus calls us to ABIDE, he is calling us remain in fellowship with Him; receiving our life from His life ([v4](#)). He also warns us that there are branches loosely attached to the vine. They look a part of the vine, but they are not truly abiding in it and therefore they eventually die – because the branch cannot live on its own ([v5](#)). There are people that have a loose connection to Jesus but are not truly receiving life from Him. They may look the part, but they ultimately are not bearing fruit of godliness and will eventually be cut off ([v2](#)). But true disciples will bear fruit SIMPLY by abiding in Jesus. The Father will prune them, clearing away that which would hamper their growth, so that they will be more fruitful.

Practical thoughts on Abiding

The first exercise of abiding is to ask Jesus for his godliness to be our own. **Charles Spurgeon** said, “**As stars shine, abiders pray**”. They pray because they do not want Jesus to stop giving them His life. If you want to know how eager you are to abide, ask yourself how eager you are to pray. Those who are abiding want Jesus to fill them with **his word** and help them yield to it ([v7, 10, 14-15](#)). They want **his prayers** to be their prayers, and they have an AMAZING promise from God about the power of their prayers if the word of Christ is in them ([v7-8, 16](#)). Those abiding will also be filled **with the joy** that belongs to Jesus ([v11](#)) and **the love** He has for God and others ([v9, v12-13](#)). Do you believe Jesus loves you? Do you believe that Jesus loves the people in the church next to you? Then if you are drawing life from Him, how can you not also love other believers? His – sacrificial, self-denying – love for the church will overflow out of you. Have you ever said to yourself, “**I don’t have it in me to _____** (Read my Bible, pray, love this person, forgive, lay down my sin, etc...)”! Well the good news is that you do not have to! The ability to do those things is only in Jesus, so ask Him to fill you with His life.

Application

Through saving faith in Christ, you enter the **greatest fellowship** you can ever experience. The **Father will care for you** as He does His own son. The **son will love you** as your closest friend. And **the Spirit will help** you live from the life of Jesus, bearing fruit not your own - especially love for other believers. If today you say that you struggle with love for the church, the first question you must ask is whether or not you are regularly abiding in Jesus. AS you abide, the love of Christ will fill you and you will find yourself able to love other believers like you could never do in your own power.