

# Abiding in Christ #2

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## The abundant life comes through bearing fruit

- We bear fruit when we
  - Bring people to Christ (Rom. 1:13; Jno. 15:16)
  - Allow the Spirit to produce character (Gal. 5:22-23)
  - Engage in good works (Col. 1:10)
  - Praise God with our lips (Heb. 13:15)

## Bearing fruit comes through abiding in Christ

- Being joined to the vine
  - Takes place at baptism (Gal. 3:-26-27; Rom. 6:3-7)
  - But abiding is an ongoing process (Jno. 15:4-5)

Abiding in Christ comes through obedience (Jno. 15:10)

- **There are different reasons for obeying**
  - Fear (Matt. 10:28; Jno. 15:6)
  - Reward (Mk. 10:28-31)
  - A sense of ought (Matt. 23:23)
  - Love (Jno. 14:9-10)

## The highest of all motives is love (Jno. 14:15)

- Love centers on the giver not the gift (Job 13:15)
- Love does not measure sacrifice (Jno. 15:13)

# Loving is made easy by knowing Jesus

- The better we know Jesus, the easier it is to love him.
  - He was obedient to the Father. Why important?
  - He cared for people
  - He stood for truth
  - He preached against injustice and religious hypocrisy
  - He was willing to give His all – His life

# Consequences

- Of not abiding – thrown into fire (Jno. 15:6)
- Of abiding
  - Be His disciples (Jno. 15:8)
  - Joy (Jno. 15:11)
  - Answered prayer (Jno. 15:16)
  - Friends (Jno. 15:15)

# Questions

- **Where is your aim?**
- **What/Who is first in your life?**
- **Are you enjoying the abundant life?**