

Radically Abiding in Christ Together



John 15:1-11

English Standard Version



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

- The American Dream
- False premise and errant goal
- Premise: Our greatest asset is us
- Goal: Our glory
- The Gospel's Good News: I'm free from succeeding on my own and free to live a wildly productive life in Christ



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

¹"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. ³Already 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. ⁵I 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. -John 15:1-5



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

- "I am the vine"= Christ is the new life
- "Every branch that doesn't bear fruit"= believers are branches and are 'pruned'
- Why prune a branch?
- To remove dead, unproductive branches
- To make productive branches even more productive
- Pure and clean from same root - "catharsis"



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- Pruning would indicate some pain
- Not all pain/suffering is from God or productive
- To the extent that God is pruning me, making me more productive, I welcome this!



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¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. -Romans 8:18



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

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¹¹ All chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, even the fruit of righteousness.

-Hebrews 12:11 (New American Standard)



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

- Abide = Be continuously present in; to draw life from
- To remain = I exert effort
- Apart from me...nothing
- Can't create life
- Can't do anything that lasts
- The definition of fruit: Salvation & sanctification
- The vine gives us life so we can feed the Gospel to others so they can be sustained by the vine (evangelism and discipleship)



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⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

-John 15:6-8



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

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- Not about losing salvation
- Can you be in the vine and not bear fruit
- 1) Never saved, but hanging around Jesus/church
- 2) Saved but a total loss of productivity



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- It's dangerous to be an unproductive Christian branch
- You don't focus attention on God
- You don't introduce others to God
- For hangers-on/unproductive branches - why do you do it?
- Christ isn't interested in it at all!



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⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. -John 15:9-11



Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

- In what ways do we abide in Christ?
- Verse 3: Be uniquely His through salvation
- Verse 7: His words are in you
- They are authoritative
- They are loving



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- Verse 9: Obey him
- Relationship and obedience = faith and works
- Verse 10: Love
- I will use all of my resources to share the Gospel with as many people as possible
- Verse 11: Joy



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- Do you think that being a productive Christian is up to you?
- You will rely on your own strength and be frustrated
- You will not do things where you feel inadequate
- Where are you making excuses and avoiding?



R A D I C A L T O G E T H E R

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- Is Christ producing fruit through you?
- Salvations? sanctification?
- No - why not?
- Be saved
- Abide in relationship



Radically Abiding in Christ Together: John 15:1-11

- Are you being pruned?
- How are you responding to God?
- Ask Him to make it pruning and not just pain
- What's your life plan?
- Is it in line with God's mission to produce salvations, Christ's actions, and to show God's glory?
- Or is it you doing the American Dream?



A close-up photograph of a tall stack of pancakes, approximately 10-12 layers high. The pancakes are golden-brown and appear fluffy. A thick, amber-colored syrup is being poured over the stack, creating a glossy sheen and dripping down the sides. The background is plain white.

PANCAKES & PAJAMAS

Thursday, October 6th

See the resource table TODAY!

SUPPER CLUB



October 1-2

Sign Up Today!

TRUNK OR TREAT!

October 30th / 5-7 PM

Jenny Lane Trailer Park

Fall Party

Mark your calendars &
make plans to join us!

Talk to your Muslim Friend
Oct 16 & 23 @ 9 AM
RSVP @ the Resource Table





McAllen Church-
Wide Mission Trip
December 28-31
Come & find out
more on October
9th @ 12:30
RSVP to attend