



**Text:** John 15:1-9

**Title:** Abiding in His Presence

**Introduction:** Of the thousands of words in the English language, the word “*Abide*” is probably not a word that many of us used last week. Most of us probably said, “*Let’s go, I’ve got to hurry,*” or maybe getting ready for church today someone said, “*Move it or lose it!*” “*Abide*” is just one of those words we just don’t hear or use.

Webster defines Abide as: *remaining*. *Remaining* is something foreign to our society and culture. Yet, our world has placed so much emphasis on being upwardly mobile the very thought of remaining with someone or something has negative connotations today. So, Americans move.... from relationship to relationship / state to state / company to company / spouse to spouse / church to church. While these moves may or may not be advantageous, the tragedy is that fewer and fewer people today are finding God and then remaining in a lasting relationship with Him. In fact, television has so trained our minds that about 6 minutes from right now many of you will be ready for a commercial, and will have trouble remaining mentally attentive during one sermon.

**Note** – The words in our text this morning were spoken by Jesus somewhere between the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane. Possibly as he passed through the vineyards of the Jewish countryside. Jesus invites His disciples, not to simply “try Him”, but to Abide with Him, to Remain with Him.

During the next several weeks, I would like each of us to learn what it means to Abide in His Presence.

## I. **The Supremacy of His Presence** – vs. 1

**Note** – “I Am” – He is not just another way or religion.

Earlier in this same book He said, “I am the bread of life.” “I am the light of the world.” “I am the door.” “I am the Son of God.” “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

**A. “I Am” the True Vine** – “Alethines = Genuine”

**Note** – There are many self proclaimed Saviors, and man made religions in the world today – but only one Savior!

**Illustration** – The Jewish followers needed to realize the prophecy of Hosea had come true – “Israel is an empty vine.” (10:1) – Salvation was no longer found in their national religion.

**Illustration** – Some say, it doesn’t matter which vine you abide in...

- Shirley Mclain Abides in Astrology
- HaKeem Alajovan – Moslem – Prays toward Mecca
- Others abide in prayerful repetitions to many

**Note** – In this parable – the branches represent people who share in the life of the vine... It is important that you dwell in the true vine!

**Note** – I thank God that the vine from which I draw strength and sustenance is Jesus Christ – the Creator of the world who lived a perfect life, died for my sin and rose again.

## II. **The Invitation To His Presence** – vs. 4

**Note** – Before you abide, you must first enter. The way to enter His presence is by Faith.

**Rom 10:17** – Faith cometh by hearing...

**Eph 2:8-9** – For by Grace... Through Faith...

**Note** – Once you enter His presence by Faith, as the disciples had done, Jesus invites you to abide in Him. (Draw sustenance, cling, stick fast...)

**A. Abide in Me**

1. Bible Study – John 1:1 – The Word was God...
2. Prayer – Draw near unto God
3. Trials – Develop our Spiritual Lives

**Illustration** – Man walking with a load of grain – another man with a buck board pulled by a horse stopped and said, “Climb up, I’ll give you a lift.” Man climbed up with grain on his shoulder and sat down. Driver said, “Put that grain down and relax.” “Oh no – its enough to ask you to give me a ride without carrying my load also!”

**Note** – Some of us need to Abide in His Power today!

**B. I in You – vs 4**

**Note** – Paul – Gal 2:20 – Christ lives in me...

**Note** – When you accept Christ as Savior – His Spirit indwells you!

**1 John 2:27**

*27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

**Note** – He will never leave or forsake us!

**III. The Consolation of his Presence – vs 9 (His love)**

**Note** – He will love us – as the Father loves Him!

**A. Eternal Love**

**1 John 4:10**

*10 Herein is love, not that we loved god, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**B. Perfect Love**

**1 John 4:18**



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**18** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

**Illustration** – One lady just wanting her husband to love her and accept her...received a sweater as a gift...thought she looked nice in it! 6 year old boy came in “That s a pretty sweater mommy. You look like Wheel of Fortune.” “Thank you sweet heart, I think you mean that I look like Vanna White.” “No mom,” he said, “I mean you look like the wheel.”

**C. Unchangeable Love** – To the end / Nothing Separating

**Conclusion** – Friend, Jesus is holding out a nail pierced hand today saying...Enter, Abide , He is the True Vine – His love is unchanging. Abide in Him!