



Text: John 15:1-6

Title: Abiding in His Purging

Introduction: We are to Abide in God's purpose, which is to bear fruit. God is pleasant with the fruit of the vine. Most of us have a favorite fruit. We go to the store and choose it, then take it home and enjoy it. BUT, fruit does not just appear at the grocery store....nor does fruit "just appear" in our Christian lives. If we are going to bear spiritual fruit, we must be willing to endure the rigors of growth.

Note- Some of the aspects of growth as a branch attached to the VINE are...

1. The water of God's Word...

Ps 1:3

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

2. Spiritual Receptivity

Matt 13:23

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

3. Abiding in Christ....Remaining

Today – One of the most difficult aspects needed for growth – Purging
Definition of Purging: *To make free of impurity – to rid of unfriendly elements.*

Note – The vine is Christ – the Branches are prone to wander – full of their own will...

Note – The reasons to Abide in Purging...

I. Signifies the Providence of God – vs. 1

A. God is the Husbandman – He is the "Vine Dresser"

Note – He has authority over the Branches



Series: Abiding in Christ

Text: John 15:1-6

Title: Abiding in His Purging

Note – Like a father, who knows best for a child, God the Father knows what is best for us. Like a Father who lovingly, yet sternly disciplines a child for running into the street, our Heavenly Father wants us to Abide in Christ.

Heb. 12:6-8

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourge every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

B. He has Authority over the Branches – verses 2a, 6

1. He can take an unfruitful Branch away – He can judicially sever from this life

1 John 5:16

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Note – If a person resists the Holy Spirit – He will bear no fruit...

2. He can prune a Fruitful Branch

Note – You may be doing your best to live for God...

Note – God only prunes for our Profit.

Note – In the case of a faithful Christian – these are trials God providentially allows – But, the cross you bear becomes a means of sweeter fellowship with Him.

II. Increases the Performance of God's People – vs. 2c

“...That it may bring forth more fruit.”

A. By Renewing the Object of Affection Between You and God.

B. By Keeping Us Disciplined to the Vine...

Note – In every trouble of the Christian, the Father can be found pointing us back to Christ.

Illustration – Productive vineyards – the Branches must form to the will of the vine...

Note – God intends Burdens to become Blessings... Some of the most fruitful Christians have experienced incredible trials!

Rom. 5:3-5

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 and patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

III. Facilitates a Purification of God's People – vs. 3

Note – Here, Jesus turns to His 11 disciples...

A. They had been cleaned as a group – By the removal of Judas

B. They had been cleaned individually by the Word

Note – God is concerned with spiritual purity because we are the media through which He brings forth fruit.

Note – His word is a Cleansing Agent; His word is a pruning tool to mold us to Christ's image.

Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Conclusion – Perhaps you are experiencing some great burden today. Bend at the touch of His hand, endure the trial...



Series: Abiding in Christ
Text: John 15:1-6
Title: Abiding in His Purging

1 Peter 1:7

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

James 1:3-4

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

DON'T RUN FROM PRUNING – Don't TURN your Back on God.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.