

John 15:1-11

## I. God is Interested in Productivity

The mega-church #'s mindset vs. the holiness/hardcore mindset of "just be faithful."

1. Oh, how we do not need to undermine the faithfulness of men like William Carey, Samuel Zwemer, or Jeremiah who toiled long and caught nothing.
2. But! Nor should we think that our martyr's complex is as pleasing to God as being productive... "the less fruitful we are, the more hard core/holy we are." No!

Notice what Jesus says in this text.

1. **If you do not bear fruit...you are removed!**
  - a. verse 6
  - b. Luke 13:6-9
2. **If you bear fruit, he prunes you so that you will bear more fruit.**
  - a. The word prune could be translated as "clean."
  - b. Is pruning/cleaning the same as sanctifying? Knocking off rough edges.
3. **The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit.** v8

Verse 10—God is interested in productivity, therefore we should be interested in productivity...right?

Which should lead us to the following question....

## II. How can I be productive or fruitful?

Verses 4-5—abide in Christ and Christ in you.

1. What does the word Abide mean?
2. Original Greek: Abide, remain, wait, stay.
3. Websters 1828: *To rest, or dwell. To continue permanently or in the same state; to be firm and immovable. To wait, to be prepared for.*

**We know what "Abide" means...but what does it mean to abide?** This is the 3rd question.

## III. How do we abide in Christ?

As I look at John 15, there are some things that stand out in relation to "abiding."

1. My words v7
2. My Love v9
3. My commandments (plural) v10
4. My commandment (singular) v12

### A. Embrace His Word

1. 1 John 2:24
2. Psalm 1:1-3
3. 2 John 1:9

## **B. Enjoy His Love**

1. 1 John 4:13-16
  - a. Notice that there is a progression that seems to culminate in His love
  - b. Receive the Spirit v13
    - a. 1 John 3:24
    - b. 1 John 2:27
  - c. Confess Christ v15
    - a. Romans 10
  - d. Experience His love v16
2. Abide in that love...don't drift off from it or out of it! v9-10

## **C. Obey His Commandments**

1. 1 John 3:6-9
2. 1 John 3:24a
3. Notice that the reason he gave us this is our joy. v11

## **D. Exercise His Commandment**

1. Notice that Keeping His commandments (plural) is directly linked to Keeping His commandment (singular): 2 John 1:6
2. 1 John 4:12
3. 1 John 3:17
  - a. How do we love one another?
  - b. By laying down your life for others....spending and being spent for others
  - c. John 15:12-17

## **IV. Motivation to Abide**

Jesus is coming again.

We know what He wants: productivity.

We know how to be productive: abide.

We know how to abide: receive the Spirit, confess Christ, experience his love, embrace his word, and love and obey.

1 John 2:28