

Day 3

CONNECTED TO THE VINE

So far, so good, you may think. I want to have Jesus at the center of my life. I want to adjust my relationship with anyone, anything, or any purpose that takes priority over Him. But I get distracted. I get busy. I forget about Him. I sometimes wait to call on Him until I'm at the end of my rope. How can I allow Him to be the first priority in my life so that I turn to Him first? How can I have a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Him?

REMAINING IN CHRIST

The secret of discipleship is lordship. When you truly acknowledge Christ as Lord in all areas of your life, He lives in you in the fullness of His Spirit. He provides what you need to be like Him and to do His will.



On a separate sheet of paper, write out John 15:5, your Scripture-memory verse for this week. Then, complete this sentence:

Without Jesus's living in you and your living in Him, you can do _____ to bear fruit.

You may try to make it on your own. You may try your own remedies and the world's remedies. You may do good deeds to satisfy your ego or to please others. But ultimately, the victory is His. You can do nothing to bear fruit without Him.

Jesus said three things will characterize your life when He lives in you and you live in Him. Read the Scriptures below in your Bible. Match those three things with the appropriate references.

____ 1. Luke 6:46

a. Obedience

____ 2. John 15:8

b. Love

____ 3. John 13:34-35

c. Fruit

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
Luke 6:46 KJV

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
John 15:8 KJV

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
John 13:34-35 KJV

When He lives in you and you live in Him, obedience, love, and fruit are apparent to persons around you. The correct answers are (1) a, (2) c, (3) b. Remember these three things by putting them in sequence: Love produces obedience, and obedience produces fruit.



Life in Christ

How do you abide in the Vine, as your Scripture-memory verse emphasizes? How do you make Christ the center of your Christian life? Consistently devote part of each day to a quiet time so that you can spend time with the Father and can stay attached to the Vine. Shut out all distractions and totally turn over that portion of your day to Him. If you do not already do so, begin having a daily quiet time to stay in touch with God on a regular, consistent basis.

The two things that will help you grow most as a Christian are a quiet time and Scripture memory. Part of discipleship is setting aside from fifteen to twenty minutes every day to spend with Jesus Christ, who is at the center of your life.

Here are guidelines for having a consistent quiet time. As you read, write decisions about your personal quiet time.

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

1. Make a personal quiet time the top priority of your day.

- *Select a time to spend with God that fits your schedule. Usually, morning is preferable, but you may want or need to choose another time.*

My quiet time is/will be _____ every day.

2. Prepare the night before.

- *If your quiet time is in the morning, set your alarm. If it is difficult for you to wake up, plan to exercise, bathe, dress, and eat before your quiet time.*
- *Select a place where you can be alone. Gather materials, such as your Bible, notebook, and a pen or a pencil, and put them in the place selected so that you will not waste time in the morning.*

The place for my quiet time is/will be _____.

3. Develop a balanced plan of Bible reading and prayer.

- *Pray for guidance during your quiet time.*
- *Follow a systematic plan to read your Bible.*

