

## ***Our Fruit Bearing is Connected to Our Abiding***

### **Opening Discussion:**

*What patterns/behaviors contribute to a healthy marriage (or close friendship)?*

*What behaviors are potential threats to the health of a marriage (or close friendship)?*

My aim today:

1. To help us see that abiding is an invitation to have substantive relationship with Christ.
2. To understand opportunities we have to actively yield to Christ.
3. Offer some biblical expectations for those who abide in Christ.

### **Abiding is About Relationship:**

What does it mean to abide?

*In context of John 15?*

What makes this relationship unique?

Jesus is not our equal.

Hebrews 1:1–6

**What are the practical implications of this inequality on our relationship with Jesus?**

**Can you think of examples in scripture where God demonstrates a surprising generosity in his relationship to us despite our inequality?**

We must rightly understand our place in this relationship.

John 15:5

2 Corinthians 12:9–10

Philippians 4:12–13

**How Do We Abide? Yield or Chase?**

Is Abiding Active or Passive?

Philippians 2:12–13

God works in us, we work out what he is working in.

How do we actively yield to God?

1. Listen to God's Word. (his revelation of himself)

John 15:7

John 15:10–11

2 Timothy 3:14–17

2. Speak with God in prayer.

John 15:7

1 John 5:14–15

3. Deepen your faith by walking in obedience.

John 15:10

Psalms 40:8

4. Persistently remove barriers created by our sin.

James 5:16

James 5:19–20

Colossians 3:5–8

1 John 1:8–10

Are there other ways we can actively yield to Jesus?

**What Can We Expect As A Result of Our Abiding?**

1. *Bearing fruit for God's glory*
2. *Experiencing the Father's pruning to increase our fruitfulness.*
3. *Seeing God answer our prayers.*
4. *Loving like God does.*
5. *Experiencing joy apart from circumstance.*

**Next Week:** Our Abiding is Connected to Our Obeying