

Lakeview Christian Center
School of the Word
August 6, 2023
Pastor Peter Davidson

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings – Lesson 27

Last week we said that Jesus used *Abide* to explain how we are to remain in continual communion with Him.

With this usage, Jesus is emphasizing our manner of life or our ...walk...

And in we see in **John 15:2, 4, 5, 8, 16** that the significance of the way we Abide in Jesus is described as ...fruit...

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who Abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you would go and bear fruit and that your fruit would remain...

In **v. 4**, Jesus equates our Abiding in Him as bearing ...fruit...

Then in **v. 8**, Jesus explains the significance of our bearing fruit:

My Father is glorified [in this way], that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples...

In this verse, Jesus explains how God fulfills His purpose for creating us in His image
[Gen.1:26]

The image that God is speaking about is Jesus Himself:

Col. 1:15 ... *[Jesus] is the Image of the invisible God...*

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2 Cor. 4:4b ...*the Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ Who is the Image of God...*

This means that the fruit of **v. 8** is Jesus Who is ...*the Image of God...*

This fruit of **v. 8** is called ...*the fruit of Righteousness...* in **Phil. 1:11**, **Heb. 12:11**, and **James 3:18**

And **1 John 3:7** tells us that ... *[Jesus] is Righteous...*

Therefore, the fruit of Righteousness can be read as ...*the fruit [of Jesus' own Life]...*

For God to be glorified, the fruit of our lives must be the fruit of Jesus' own Righteousness

Now let's re-read **v. 8** with this in mind:

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear [the fruit of My Life], and so prove to be My disciples...

And God has now made this possible by giving us the Holy Spirit Who has applied God's forgiving grace to our hearts

Ez. 36:26-27 ...*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and [I will] give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and [I will] cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.*

Therefore, we read in **2 Cor. 5:21** that ...*[God] made [Jesus] Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the Righteousness of God IN Him...*

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This is why and how the fruit that glorifies God is the fruit of Jesus in us.

Therefore, as we abide or cooperate with the Spirit, He will produce the fruit of Jesus' own Righteousness in and through us.

In this way God fulfills His eternal purpose in **Gen. 1:26**

Now let's take look at the two types of fruit that glorifies God:

The 1st fruit is *...the fruit of the Spirit...* as described in **Gal 5:22-23**

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control...

THIS fruit is the character of Jesus that the Spirit is reproducing in and through us.

The 2nd fruit is the ministry of the Spirit in and through us.

The ministry of the Spirit includes the work and gifts of the Spirit as He advances the Gospel in us and through us in the church and into the world.

THIS is the fruit that glorifies the Father because it is the fruit of Jesus' Life

Next week we will look at how the glory of God is manifested in the fruit of our lives.