

In a Word – Abide – John 8:31

Introduction

- The word “abide” is not a word we use often in our everyday language.
 - Though it is a word that appears many times in our English bibles

I. Abide: A Definition

- a. The word “abide” along with its other forms appears:
 - i. NKJV - 45 times
 - ii. KJV – 36 times
 - iii. ESV – 44 times
 - iv. NASV – 41
 - v. NIV - 0
- b. What is the biblical definition of the word abide?
 - i. To “abide” is an active verb. Abiding in Christ and His word is not a feeling or a belief, but something we do.
 - ii. To abide means to “remain” or “stay” but far more than the idea of continued belief in the Savior.
- c. Abide = continue, to remain, stay, keeping the inspired words of God fresh in our minds

II. We “Abide” in His Word (John 8:31)

- a. Why do we care if you have read your bible every day?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) (AKJV)

- i. To be approved unto God, to avoid shame, I must read, study, meditate, and abide in the words of the inspired bible.
- b. If we are going to claim to be the disciples (followers) of Christ, we must abide in His word.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide (continue) in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (John 8:31)

- c. “If you “continue” in my word.” (KJV)
 - i. Unlike reading a popular novel, or a text book, the time spent in the words of our Lord must continuous and non-stop. It must be something that we do every day.

(1) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1–2)

- ii. We need to develop the desire for spending time, abiding in the word
- iii. The blessed man meditates on the word day and night...
- d. Not only does the word “abide” carry with it the idea of continuous reading and comprehension, but we must also act upon those things we learn.
 - i. Abiding in the word will develop an action-packed faith, a working faith (Rom. 10:17)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6)

- e. Unfortunately, not everyone will follow the steps of Jesus...

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. (2 John 9)

- f. When we abide in Christ and His word, we will overcome and defeat Satan

(14) I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one. (1 John 2:14)

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

- g. Abiding in Christ must include love and results in the relationship between us and God

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16)

- h. Abiding in the words of Christ will leads us to eternal life...

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:17)

- i. We must “abide” in God’s word through Jesus Christ

III. We “Abide” by the Supper (John 6:53-58)

- a. Jesus explains that by participating in the observance of the Lord’s Supper, we continue to abide in Him.

He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (John 6:56)

- b. After the feeding of the 5,000 and the crossing of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on the water, the people had followed Him to the other side.
- c. While speaking to the multitude, Jesus proclaimed...

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

d. Jesus would later institute the Supper during the Jewish Passover feast...

"Do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

i. Jesus said that those who partake of the Supper are abiding, continuing in the relationship with Him.

e. Back in John Chapter 6...

i. This confused, aggravated, and caused the Jews to argue among themselves

The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."

(John 6:41)

ii. In verses 53-54 Jesus said that those who refused to partake of the flesh and the blood have no life in them.

1. Those who do partake, have everlasting life and He will raise them up on the last day, the resurrection on that Great Day of Judgment.
2. Because of their confusion, misunderstanding and refusal to believe, many of the disciples grumbled and complained.
3. At the end of the chapter we find one of the saddest verses in the bible...

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (John 6:66)

f. When we refuse and neglect the acts of worship, which includes the Lord's Supper, we are no longer abiding in Christ.

i. When we remember the greatest sacrifice the world has ever known, when we pray, sing, give, and study His word, we are "abiding" in Jesus Christ.

IV. We "Abide" in the Vine (John 15:1-11)

a. Jesus describes the relationship between Himself and the disciple by using the metaphor of a vine and branches.

(1) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

(4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, 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, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:1, 5-4)

- b. We've already seen how we abide in Christ through His word, through remembering Him by worship. In this illustration, we easily see that we must be connected to "the Vine".
 - i. In this passage, Jesus uses the word "abide" or "remain" (per other versions) ten times.
- c. The lesson is simple, no matter is it's a vine, tree, or bush. In order to produce fruit one must "abide" or be attached to the main body of the plant.
- d. "Abide in Me" = "Abide in Christ"
 - i. Baptized into Christ Jesus (Romans 6:3)
 - ii. By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - iii. Baptized into Christ, put on Christ (Galatians 3:27)
 - iv. Every spiritual blessing is found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
 - v. No condemnation in Christ (Romans 8:1)
 - vi. Justification by grace through redemption in Christ (Romans 3:24)
 - vii. The gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)
- e. The purpose of the branch is to produce fruit...

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

- f. Fruit bearing by the Christian can be described in two ways...
 - i. The development of the Christian character

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22–23)

(5) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (2 Peter 1:5–7)

- ii. The act of doing good for others.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. (Titus 3:8)

- g. However, the branch that bears no fruit, robs the plant from valuable resources

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:2)

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:6)

- i. How important it is for us to “abide” in the Vine

V. Conclusion: In a Word: Abide

- a. There are many more instances of the word “abide” in the New Testament
 - i. We must “abide” in God’s word
 - ii. We must “abide” in worship
 - iii. We must “abide” in the Vine, which is our Lord Jesus Christ
- b. In these words Jesus shared with His apostles, we find encouragement to continue to “abide” in Christ...

(9) “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. (11) “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:9–11)