

February 18, 2024

*Abiding in God*

**Reminding the Church Series**

Text: Selected Scripture

*Review:* A key word used by John in this letter is the Greek word *meno* which we translate as *abide*. Abide means to remain or to dwell – other like terms could be to continue, to stay put, or even to roost.

I. Jesus Promised His Presence. John 14:23

II. Paul Preached His Promise. Ephesians 3:14-19

God's presence in the believer's life would bring:

- Strength through the Holy Spirit in the inner man.
- Jesus dwelling in the hearts of the redeemed.
- God's children being filled with the fullness of God.

III. Jesus' Promise Is the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-13

A. Our Helper.

*Paracletos* ~ Comforter, Counselor, the One alongside of us.

B. Our Guide to Truth. John 16:13a

C. Our Teacher. John 14:26

D. Our Reminder.

E. Our Conviction. John 16:8

F. Our Insight into the Future. John 16:13b

When John was introducing this letter, he attempted to draw others into fellowship with the church because the church fellow-shipped with the Father and Son Jesus. **1 John 1:3**. In some ways, this describes an element of abiding in God.

**1 John 1:7a**. Walking in the light also show us what abiding demands. Read also **2:6, 10**. Includes loving other brethren.

We are in God, as the love of God becomes more real to us through our obedient walk with Him ~ **1 John 2:5**.

*NIV Study Bible* – God's love completed when we obey or our love for God becomes complete when expressed in obedience.

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I. Embrace the Apostles' Teaching. **1 John 2:24; 1:1-3a**

Jude confronted similar people who veered from the teachings given by Jesus and His disciples. **Jude 3-4**

A. Eternality of Jesus.

John began his gospel in a similar way – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

B. The Humanity of Christ.

John heard, saw, spent extended time, maybe even arm wrestled...

C. Salvation Only through Jesus.

II. Embody the Word. **1 John 3:24a**

*Embody* ~ be an expression of or give a tangible or visible form to an idea or quality.

A. A "live and in-person" expression of God's love.

1 John 4:12 (Read **1 John 4:12-16**.)

Love originated in the Father, was manifested in His Son, and now must be demonstrated by His people.

B. A clear, unchanging message of salvation.

1 John 4:14-15

The Father sent His Son (God Himself) to be the Savior.

C. Lives changed by God's perfect love. 1 John 4:16

After rebirth, we have experienced and are capable of unconditional love.

III. Experience Life with the Spirit. **1 John 3:24b; 4:13**

A. Dealing with sin. **1 John 3:6, 9**

With the Spirit's indwelling, a believer cannot habitually sin. To do so would indicate no genuine rebirth or eventual conviction and chastening.

The life of a child of God cannot be characterized by sin but by the righteous life they now live.

B. Persevering to the end. 1 John 2:28

We won't have to dread His return but instead can anticipate a reward as we look for His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8

*So What?* But he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:17b

We will find ourselves at home with God for eternity!

Close by reading John 15:1-11 from *The Message*, p. 1481.

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
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1. Abiding carries the idea of *being at home with* or *being comfortable in someone's presence*. How does John's encouragement for fellowship and walking in the light play off the concept of abiding in God? Define *walking in the light* in very practical terms.

2. To abide in God one must embrace the apostles' teachings. Where can these be found? Who were the apostles and what qualified them as God's representatives? How do the apostles compare to the Old Testament saints?

3. *Embody* means to be an expression of or give a tangible or visible form to an idea or quality. Christians are to embody the Word and the message and principles it proclaims. Why is the world's great need *love* if Christians have been around for centuries? Is the message of salvation clearly understood in the church?

4. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His followers after His death, resurrection, and ascension. Why are you grateful for this gift of God? How have you experienced His presence or power this past week or month? Are you anticipating the return of Christ?

5. Read John 15:1-11 in at least three different translations. What does the gardener do with fruitless or detached branches? What does the gardener do to fruitful branches? What does the Vine supply to the branches? Does this parable make you feel good or apprehensive? Why?

Sermon Topic for February 25:

*Things We Can Know*                      1 John

In twenty-one verses in 1 John, we are told of several things we can know for certain. Try to find these verses and make note of those things we can be confident of. (Hints - six verses in chapter 2, six verses in chapter 3, three verses in chapter 4, and six verses in chapter 5). Have fun and be encouraged!