



Life on the Vine
“Abiding in the True Vine”
Pastor Tom Shirk
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“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.”

John 15:4

Elements of an Allegory

- Vine
- Vinedresser
- Branch
- Fruit

Encouragement to Abide

1. To abide is to remain in an **unbroken, vital, life-receiving** relationship with **Christ**.
2. To abide is to make Christ the **source** of our **affections**, and the **aim** of our **activities**.

3. To abide is prerequisite for **fruitfulness** for God.
4. Apart from abiding in Christ, **life** is **fruitless**.

Threats to Abiding

1. **Starvation**
2. **Self Absorption**
3. **Distracting endeavors**
4. **Attacks by enemies of the Vine**

For your LIFEGROUP:

1. What element of the allegory of John 15 was most helpful for you?
2. Which threat to abiding do you face most often? Why? How?
3. Note each of the four threats to abiding that were mentioned. Now split your LIFEGROUP into four groups, assigning one “threat” to each. Each group is to develop a strategy for identifying and overcoming their “threat”. Use Scripture if possible. Explain why it’s a threat. Have each group report and share their strategy.
4. Read John 15:5 and Philippians 4:13. How are these truths complementary?
5. Memorize John 15:4

Next week: Pruning Happens