

LOVE

Theme: Love 30

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Abiding in Christ forms Love.

Read: The challenge for the church is to truly be abiding in Christ through the power of the Spirit and Truth, so the Father's love is being formed within us. It's easy to think we abide in Christ because we know about Christ, but abiding in Christ produces the Life of Christ within us. To not be having the Life of Christ - Love, abiding within us is to not be abiding in Christ to the measure Jesus teaches.

As we know John 15 is an amazing passage of teaching on abiding in the Vine and the life that comes in and through the Vine, by this true abiding of the Spirit and Truth position. Jesus says there is much fruit produced from this abiding position and the first fruit is love. Love is not the only fruit produced, but love is the first fruit. This 'much' fruit that is being formed and produced proves we are His disciples, because it proves we are abiding in the Vine.

John 15:5 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.

John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

We don't have to try to prove we are His but just be abiding in Him and the evidence of this proves itself.

There is massive difference between a disciple of Jesus and a casual consumer of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus abides in all of Jesus and His Words which are Spirit and Life, in turn having the Life of Jesus formed in them as John 1:4 shares, with love being the first fruit as mentioned. A casual consumer is just that. They just pick and chose what they deem is appropriate for them, in an alignment to their selfish desires. It's no different to being at a smorgasbord meal where we pick and choose what we want, leaving what we don't want.

An abiding disciple of Jesus will be able to love as Jesus loved while a casual consumer will always come short of this wisdom. Let's be abiding disciples and not casual consumers.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to be abiding in the Spirit and Truth?
2. Why is the evidence of this abiding posture 'much' internal fruit of the Spirit?
3. What does a church look like that is full of disciples of Christ?
4. Why is being a casual consumer so dangerous to the individual and the body?
5. What does the evidence of your life say about your current position in Christ?

Action: What are you being made aware of through this resource and is there one thing you need to put in place from going through this resource?