November 8, 2026

“Teach Me to Abide”

John 15:1–11

Main Idea: In Christ, we receive the life we need, bear the fruit He desires, and experience the joy He promises.

I. WHO GOD IS (vv. 1–3) | *God Gives Us Life*

1. The “I AM” — Jesus reveals His divine identity (Exodus 3:14; John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6).
2. Jesus is the True Vine (v. 1) — Where Israel failed, Jesus is the faithful Son (Isaiah 5; Psalm 80).
3. The Father is the Vinedresser (v. 1) — He knows, tends, and cares for His vineyard.
4. God is the source of spiritual life — We are the branches, entirely dependent on Christ (vv. 4–5).
5. Connection to Christ — Being near Jesus is not the same as truly belonging to Him (John 13:10–11).

II. WHAT GOD DOES (vv. 2–8) | *God Punishes, Prunes, and Produces Fruit*

1. God Punishes (vv. 2, 6) — Fruitless branches face judgment; outward religion cannot save.

2. God Prunes (vv. 2–3) — He cleanses and sanctifies His people, especially through His Word (John 17:17; Hebrews 12:10).

3. God Produces Fruit (vv. 2, 5, 8) — Spiritual fruit is the visible evidence of Christ’s life at work within us (Galatians 5:22–23; Philemon 7).

   a. We are saved by grace through faith, not by works; good works follow salvation (Ephesians 2:8–10).

4. Dependence on Christ (vv. 4–7) — Abide (Greek: menō) means to remain, stay, continue, or dwell in Christ through faith, His Word, prayer, and obedience.

   a. “Apart from me you can do nothing” (v. 5). Fruit glorifies the Father (v. 8).

III. WHAT WE EXPERIENCE (vv. 9–11) | *God Fills Us with Joy*

1. The blessing of abiding in His love (v. 9) — Christ loves His people as the Father has loved Him.
2. Communion with Christ (v. 10) — Obedience is our response to His love, not a way to earn it.
3. The fullness of joy (v. 11) — Christ gives lasting joy in fellowship with Him (Luke 10:38–42).

Westminster Shorter Catechism — Q. 1
Q. What is the chief end of man?
A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Westminster Shorter Catechism — Q. 38
Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory will be publicly recognized and declared not guilty on the day of judgment. They will also be made perfectly happy in the full enjoyment of God forever.

Reflection Questions

1. Am I truly connected to Christ through repentance and faith, or only familiar with Christianity?
2. Where is God’s Word pruning me, and what spiritual fruit is growing in my life?
3. Am I abiding in Christ’s love and finding my joy in Him?

Apart from Christ, NOTHING
In Christ, life, fruit, and fullness of joy!!!