

Abiding in Christ

Jesus, our perfect example, stays in the Father as we are to stay in Him - John 14:10-12 - 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Jesus provides the perfect illustration of what remaining in Christ looks like - John 15:1-8 - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off EVERY BRANCH IN ME that bears no fruit, while every branch that DOES bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 **REMAIN IN ME, AND I WILL REMAIN IN YOU. NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF; it must remain in the vine.** Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **IF a man remains in me and I in him, HE WILL bear much fruit; apart from me YOU CAN DO NOTHING.** 6 **IF ANYONE DOES NOT REMAIN IN ME, HE IS LIKE A BRANCH THAT IS THROWN AWAY AND WITHERS; SUCH BRANCHES ARE PICKED UP, THROWN INTO THE FIRE AND BURNED.** 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

First know, our relationship with our lives will dictate our relationship with Christ - John 12:25-26 - 25 The man who loves his life WILL lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world WILL keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Communion represents us gaining eternal sustenance from Jesus - John 6:53-58 - 53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who FEEDS ON ME WILL LIVE BECAUSE OF ME. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

The Holy Spirit is Christ literally living in us and empowering us with all we need. - John 14:18-20 - 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Only those that receive His commands and obey them are those that love HIM, and those that Love Him remain in Him -

John 14:21 whoever HAS MY COMMANDS and OBEYS THEM, HE IS THE ONE WHO LOVES ME. HE WHO LOVES ME will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

John 15:10-11 - 10 **IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDS, YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE,** just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

***His commands:** how to Love, our roles, deal with the world, how to worship, Deal with conflicts, raise our children...

Following His commands is our evidence that we are in Him - 1 John 2:3-6 - 3 We know that we have come to know him IF WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but **DOES NOT DO** what he commands **IS A LIAR,** and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone **obeys his word,** God's love is truly made complete in him. **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM:** 6 Whoever claims to live in him MUST walk as Jesus did.

Those that DO RIGHT are the identification of people that are truly Christian - 1 John 3:9-10 - 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHO THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE*** and **who the children of the devil are:** Anyone **who DOES NOT DO WHAT IS RIGHT IS NOT A CHILD OF GOD; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.**

*** What is done MUST BE base on what God says, not what the world defines as Christian.**

Only those that stop living in sin are truly in Jesus - 1 John 3:4-6 - 4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Only those that live loving their brothers are truly in Jesus

1 John 3:14-15 - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, BECAUSE we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who **hates his brother is a murderer,** and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; but **IF we love one another,** God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Love in action grounded in Truth - 1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Love in truth - 1 Cor 13:4-6 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

So, with all that has been said, for us to stay in Jesus means we live our lives holding and displaying HIS teaching –

It will free us!!! - John 8:31-32 - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "**IF you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.** 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Guides us to eternal life - 1 John 2:24-25 - 24 See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. IF IT DOES, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us — even eternal life.