

John 15:1-6

The Key to TBS: Abide in Christ

Believers Are to Abide in Christ So We Can Bear
Much Spiritual Fruit 15:1-5a

Believers Are to Abide in Christ So We Can Avoid
Spiritual Mediocrity/Divine Discipline 15:5b-6

To Abide in Christ

involves a believer actively recognizing and responding from the heart to the One who has saved her/him with a relational response of submission to Him as her/his Ruler/Savior as opposed to merely a mechanical religious compliance to His rules

John 15:1-5a

Believers Are to Abide in Christ So We Can Bear Much Spiritual Fruit

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ [Now] 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. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit

As the Lord and the eleven believing Apostles walk from the Upper Room toward Gethsemane, Jesus uses a word picture to communicate the core essential of TBS. This is edification/believers NOT evangelism/unbelievers

The Characters in a Vivid Word Picture v1

God the Father: the Farmer/Vinedresser

God the Son: THE True Vine

Branches in the Son/Christ = Believers

Unbelievers are NOT "Branches in Christ"

General Description of Two Basic Kinds of Branches/Believers v2

Those that do not bear full mature spiritual fruit (1 Corinthians 3:15)

Those that do bear full mature spiritual fruit (1 Corinthians 3:14)

The Basic Premise of the Word Picture (Indicative/Fact) v3

you [all ya' all] are clean/saved [all 11 were already believers in Christ]

The Basic Exhortation of the Word Picture (Imperative/Command) v4

The Lord tells these clean/believers to abide in Him

Summary Statement v5a

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me
and I in him he bears much fruit

John 15:5b-6

Believers Are to Abide in Christ So to Avoid Spiritual Mediocrity and Divine Discipline

Categorical Statement: Relational Nature of True Biblical Spirituality

Warning of the Possibility of Spiritual Mediocrity v5b

[as believers abide in Christ, we will bear much spiritual fruit [but apart
from [abiding in Christ] you can do nothing [that is truly spiritually viable]

Graphic Word Picture: Warning of Possible Divine Discipline v6

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries
up and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Deliberate/Persistent Disobedience by Believers Leads to Divine Discipline
Up/Including Premature Physical Death and Loss of Eternal Rewards

Take This To Heart

God is MORE Interested in Our Character Than in Our
Circumstances and MORE Interested in Our Inner Spirituality
Than in Our Outward Religiosity; Success...

...So Rather Than Focusing on and/or Trying to Impress Other
People (or Ourselves!) We are to Abide in Christ