

GROWING IN THE VINE

John 15.1-17

WHAT IS ABIDING AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

John 15.1-17

The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.

-George Muller

Abiding: to dwell, endure, remain, continue, or last.

Vine: In John 15, Jesus tells us He is the vine.

So Jesus' command is to somehow "dwell" and "endure" "in Him." To abide in the vine and see real vine growth is to grow in ways that only come from Him. It is to see our heart, desires, and attitudes change. It is change that comes not from self-strength but by the transforming power that comes from the Good News working within us.

Colossians 1.6

A disciple is someone who is growing in and giving out God's grace.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

John 15 actually mentions the three primary ways we abide in the vine:

- the Word
- Prayer
- Gospel Community

All throughout the New Testament, it is interesting how little "church growth" is mentioned, compared to how much there is mentioned about Gospel growth. The growth the NT is most concerned with is heart transformation, growth in holiness, and the Word of God spreading.

The only growth that matters is Gospel growth in people.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Everyone is called to grow in the vine. And everyone is called to help others grow in the vine. Each of us are to be growing in God's grace and giving out God's grace, "speaking the truth in love," "exhorting one another daily," and "speaking the Word to one another."

The only way this happens is through the power of God's Spirit as He applies His Word to our hearts. We plant and water, but God gives the increase.

This is God's Plan A. There is no Plan B.

NOTES:

Upcoming Sermons:

Next week we will be looking at the Word of God as one of the primary means of grace that God uses to help us grow. What are some practical ways to put the Word of God as a centerpiece of our plan to grow in 2017?

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

John 15:4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering during service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets during service, give online at **lifemissionchurch.com/give** or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at **katie@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at **casey@lifemission.tv**.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before discussion begins, is there anyone who can recite the memory verse?

Also, before you begin, make sure you give at least 15 or 20 minutes for the last few items in bold at the end of the this week's Homework.

Read **John 15:1-17**. What encouraged you, challenged you, or convicted you from Sunday's sermon or Scripture? _____

In your own words, what does it mean to abide in Christ? How can we practically achieve this? _____

According to John 15, what's one way can we glorify God? Why do you think that is what glorifies God? _____

Think of this phrase by John Piper: "God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him." What are your thoughts on that? How does that connect with **John 15**? _____

Read **Galatians 5:22-23**. What fruit can we see in those who are abiding in the vine? What fruits are you bearing? What fruits do you wish to bear or bear more of? _____

How must you "abide in the vine" in specific ways in order to see the fruit you wish to see more growth in actually happen? For example, if you want more peace, what must you do to abide in the vine in a specific way to grow in more peace? _____

As a Community Group, develop a prayer list for 2017 that you can be praying for consistently throughout the year.

As a Community Group, develop an outreach project or goal for 2017. Add and change both of these lists as time goes on and new prayer requests or outreach opportunities come and go.

Pray together as a group. Ask God to guide your group in 2017 and to help us guide each other as we seek to abide in Christ.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

Pastor Jobey McGinty
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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



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John 15.1-17 // January 1, 2017

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025



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