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JOHN 15: 1-8

C_____ your Vine.

IDENTITY

Identity tells you w____ you are...w_____ you are and w_____ your job is...

YOU ARE A B_____!

Choose your Vine and choose it wisely because the fruit of your life will be dependent on Who or what is your S_____.

What does it mean to “choose Him to be your Vine?”

It means to choose Jesus to be the P_____ of your life

More than just a recommendation for a more happy life, abiding is an invitation into a life-giving R_____ with the Creator of the Universe.

Key: The command to abide is instruction to d_____ yourself as one radically beloved of God...fixed into the vine.

Key: Bearing lasting fruit is I_____ without abiding...but it is the i_____ result of an abiding life.

DEFINING ABIDE

1. I _____ IN JESUS
2. I _____ WITH JESUS
3. O _____ TO JESUS

IDENTITY IN JESUS

Key: Either your lifestyle and life roles will form your identity, or your lifestyle and life roles will be formed by your identity.

Question: Where do you root or find your identity?

INTIMACY WITH JESUS

Intimacy implies a close relationship

Gary Thomas' book- Sacred Pathways suggests that God has wired us with a spiritual pathway where we connect with God most naturally.

Here's his list:

- N_____ love God outdoors.
- S_____ love God with their senses.
- T_____ love God through ritual and symbol.
- A_____ love God in solitude and simplicity.
- A_____ love God through confrontation.
- C_____ love God through loving others.
- E_____ love God with mystery and celebration.
- C_____ love God through adoration.
- I_____ love God with the mind.

The goal of your intimate time with Jesus should not be to receive or gain something...the goal is to show up...to be p_____ with Jesus.

Abiding is learning to I_____ in the presence of The Vine..

OBEDIENCE TO JESUS

The 3-fold nature of abiding:

It comes down to rooting our identity in the vine

Choosing a lifestyle of intimacy with Him

And then being obedient to what He asks of us.

BE PRESENT IN THE MOMENT

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN KNOW AT ANY GIVEN TIME IS WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE AT THIS PRESENT MOMENT.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote, **“Earth's crammed with heaven, And every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees takes off his shoes; The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”**