

Staying Close to Jesus
John 15:1-17, Pew Bible p. 901
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ABIDE Acrostic

(I) A – Awareness (vs 1-2) What is Jesus revealing to us?

- o Hearers not bearing fruit are being taken away.
- o Hearers bearing fruit are being pruned to bear more fruit.

(II) B – Believe (vs 3-5) Am I believing what Jesus says?

- o You are already clean because you believe what He says.
- o You are already clean because the Word is sanctifying you.

(III) I – Invest (vs 6-8) How am I spending His time?

- o Jesus describes those that are not connected.
- o Our closeness reflects His words and values in our communication.

(IV) D – Deepen (vs 9-15) Do I resemble Jesus in obedience and love?

- o If I obey Jesus' commandments, my union with Him produces joy!
- o If I love Jesus, I will love my neighbor with the same affection He displayed when He took my sin to the cross.

(V) E – Engage (vs 16-17) Here I am LORD! I give up my way - Send me!

- o Jesus has chosen and appointed me to abide – I give up my way.
- o Pruning yields love for Christ, the body, and the world!

Group Discussion Questions

1. Awareness

- a. How have I allowed distractions to steal my attention? How do they distract me from my identity in Christ?
- b. What type of Christian am I living as?

2. Believe

- a. What lies am I believing right now? How do they distract my faith?
- b. Do I believe what Jesus says about His work for me on the cross?
If so, how has that given me confidence?

3. Invest

- a. What distractions are stealing time away from my being close to Jesus?
- b. Why is healthy communication a key in spiritual transformation?
- c. How am I investing the time He has given me?

4. Deepen

- a. What are His commandments? (Matthew 22:37-39) Do I obey His commandments?
- b. How do I love my neighbor like Jesus did?

5. Engage

- a. What distractions is Jesus asking me to surrender?
- b. What fruit am I bearing in this process of ABIDE? (Galatians 5:22-23)