

## Sermon Outline – Sept 19, 2021

### “Abiding in Christ”

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What are you seeking the most – an *experience* with God or a *relationship* with God?

The world offers experiences that seem fulfilling and enjoyable in the moment, but those feelings are only temporary and lead to guilt, shame, condemnation, and destruction.

Experiences with God bring life rather than destruction, bring correction that leads to righteousness, and bring freedom rather than slavery.

To have a relationship with the Father, you must know the Son.

John 14:6-7

**6**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7**If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.”

John 15:4-11

**4**“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, for apart from Me you can do nothing. **6**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. **7**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8**My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. **9**Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. **10**If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. **11**These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

Abide: to stay or remain.

In other words, do not move away from Jesus or break the relationship with Him.

The relationship is greater. God may use an experience to reveal something to us about Him or ourselves. But the desire is for us to seek our Heavenly Father and grow in our relationship with Him.

The most difficult person to deal with is the one who has the prideful self-satisfaction of a past experience but is not working that experience out in his everyday life. If you *say* you are sanctified, *show* it. The experience must be so genuine that it shows in your life.

- Oswald Chambers

We are not defined by our experiences in life, but by our faith in Christ. The relationship with God, made possible by the blood of Christ, bears fruit that leads to life-giving experiences.

James 4:8

**8**Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

**John 10:1-4, 14-15**

**1**“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. **2**But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice...**14**I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

What are you seeking the most – an experience with God or a relationship with Him?