

Abide in Christ

What do the words Abide in Christ mean? The word abide means, to accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation). So, to abide in Christ would therefore mean, to accept Christ and live in accordance with His Law, which is the New Testament. In this lesson we will look at what the Bible, which is God's Word, has to say about the topic of abiding in Christ.

What does abiding in Christ mean?

John 17:20-21 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." God and Christ are united as one. To be in Christ, or abide in Him, one must believe that God and Christ are one and that God sent Jesus to us. All faithful Christians believe this, and are united because they share this acceptance together.

Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." If we are in Christ, or abiding in Christ, we might suffer persecution, but we need not worry. If we abide in Christ's Law, we gain eternal salvation. Those that do not abide in Christ, or reject His Law, do not have the promise of salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." To be in Christ, or to abide in Him, means to become a new person. It means to put on Christ and follow His Law, as a New Testament Christian. This also means putting aside anything in one's life that is not according to His Law. To Abide in Christ, one must make the changes that are necessary in their life, to live as a faithful Christian.

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Christ loves us so much he died for us on the cross. However, because Christ rose from the dead, He still lives. To abide in Christ, or live for Him, one must put on Christ. Through baptism, is the only way we can be crucified with Christ, and therefore put on Christ. After we put on Christ we can live as Christ would have us live, which is, to live according to the New Testament. To abide in Christ, also means to live as Christ would have us live, which means dropping things from our lives that are not according to His Word.

Ephesians 4:1-3 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." If we are to abide in Christ, we must strive to walk worthy of Him. With humility and love, we must walk through life doing our best to follow Christ's Law, and trying to teach others

about it. This is what it takes to abide in Christ. Not striving to keep Christ's Law, or being full of arrogance and hate, is not abiding in Christ.

Colossians 1:13-18 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Christ is the head of the body, which is the church. Christ gave us the opportunity for redemption, through His blood being shed on the cross for us. Should we contact that blood through baptism we become part of His body, which is the church. If we abide in Christ, we will be a part of His body, or church. If we are not a part of Christ's church, we do not abide in Christ.

Colossians 2:5-7 "For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." If we have put on Christ through baptism and want to abide in Him, we will walk according to His Law. If we do not walk according to Christ's Law, we do not abide in Him.

To abide in Christ is to live for Him

Luke 1:5-6 "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." To abide in Christ, is to obey all of His commandments. Not obeying the commandments of God, or only obeying the commandments I like, is not living in accordance to the Law of Christ, and is therefore not abiding in Him.

Romans 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." To live a life of a faithful follower of Christ, or to abide in Christ, I must acknowledge the Gospel has in it what I need to obtain salvation, and live accordingly. To reject the Gospel is to reject Christ. If I reject Christ, I can not abide in Him and I will be lost.

Romans 12:9-11 "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" To abide in Christ, I must take part in that which the Bible tells me to, and flee from things the Bible condemns. I must be about serving the lord by doing His will. If I take part in things I should not, or do not do the things I should, I am not abiding in Christ.

1 John 1:6-7 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” God will not be fooled. We either walk in darkness, or we walk in light. If we walk in the light, we are abiding in Christ, and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we do not abide in Christ, we walk in darkness, and can only obtain salvation if we change.

To abide in Christ in is to work for Him

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” To Abide in Christ, one must be a faithful Christian, that is involved in doing God’s will. One must be trying to spread the Word, to truly be living for Christ. This does not mean Christians must all be full time preachers, but it does mean that faithful Christians are involved in teaching others as best they can. Even if the people Christians try to teach reject Christ’s teaching, their labor is not in vain. The Lord rewards all faithful Christians with a home in Heaven based on obediently doing His will, not the number of individuals one helps to convert.

Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” To abide in Christ, Christians must be striving to live in this world, but not be of the world. Christian should be examples to the rest of the world of how God wants us to live. Living for Christ helps a Christian be prepared for eternity, by being ready for Christ to accept them into Heaven, because they have lived faithfully according to His Word. One can not be zealous of good works, unless one is involved in good works. This means Christians must be trying to teach others.

Titus 3:1-2 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men” Christians are subject to the laws of the land like everyone else, unless those laws are contrary to God’s will. Christians should be both good citizens, but also involved in doing God’s will. This is abiding in Christ.

James 1:22-27 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” All faithful Christians must be hearers of God’s Word, but it only starts there. Christians

must be actively doing God's will. To abide in Christ means living as Christ would have you live, by living according to the New Testament which includes, trying to teach others about Him.

Blessing and security are only for those in Christ

Romans 8:1-4 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Those that abide in Christ will be free from eternal condemnation, because they have walked according to Christ's teaching, and not according to the flesh. We are loved so much, that God sent His son to die in our place, so that we can be saved from eternal destruction. However, to receive the precious gift of salvation, we must abide in Christ. If we do not abide in Christ, we reject this gift that has been so freely given, and condemn ourselves.

Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." If we abide in Christ, we can not be separated from God, no matter what may come, and we will be saved eternally. If we do not abide in Christ, we choose to separate ourselves from God, and will be lost eternally.

Galatians 5:16-21 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Being involved in any one of the sinful acts Paul writes about in Galatians, and not repenting of it, is to be someone that is not abiding in Christ, and will be lost. To abide in Christ one walks in the spirit, and not the flesh.

Galatians 5:22-25 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Please, note the word fruit above is singular not plural. It is the fruit of the spirit, not fruits of the spirit. This means all of the traits Paul writes about make up the fruit of the spirit, the characteristics listed by Paul are not all individual fruits.) and **2 Peter 1:4-11** "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the

divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” To abide in Christ a Christian must be working on and growing in, all of the traits Paul writes about in Galatians, not just some of them. Peter also in his writing gives a list of several traits a faithful Christian must spent a lifetime working on, or be found lacking before God. This is challenging and is a lifelong process.

Titus 1:1-2 “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;” and **Revelation 2:10** “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” If a Christian abides in Christ, God has promised them eternal life in Heaven. God can not lie, so if He says it, we know it is true. However, eternal salvation is granted only to those that abide in Christ unto death. One can certainly make mistakes and repent of them, but abiding in Christ, is striving daily to live faithfully as a Christian, not just from time to time.

Conclusion

Hopefully, in this lesson we have come to understand what it means, to abide in Christ. We have learned that the scriptures teach us, we must live in accordance with Christ's Law, if we want eternal salvation. If we choose to reject Christ's law, we will be lost eternally. We all need to abide in Christ, so we can spent eternity in Heaven. Don't you want to abide in Christ?