

Knowing Jesus as The Vine
John 15 Discussion Questions
4/23/17

1. What is an example of a phase you have gone through? What were some of the characteristics of the phase? What are some of the factors that caused you to move on from that phase?

2. In **John 15**, Jesus is challenging his disciples to not let their faith merely be a phase. He tells them to abide in Him (**v.4**). Have you ever known someone who seemed to go through a phase of following Christ and then they walked away from Him? What do you think were some factors that caused them to follow Him initially and what were some factors that caused them to quit following Him?

3. This passage is a warning not to fall away (**see 15:6 and 16:1**). Some people make the mistake of thinking this is not a real warning. And some people make the mistake of thinking this warning means a person can lose his/her salvation. How do you think about these kinds of warnings? Should these warnings be a concern for us?

4. One key for abiding in Christ is to bear fruit in His strength and with the right motives (**vv.1-11**). What does it mean to bear fruit?

5. What is an example of the difference between bearing fruit in His strength and bearing apparent fruit in our own strength (**v.5**)? Have you ever tried to bear fruit in your own strength? Explain.

6. We discover three sources of motivation in this passage for authentic fruit bearing: what Christ has done for us (**v.3**), love (**v.9**), and joy (**v.11**). Are you more motivated by one of these three? What are some examples of unhealthy motivations for bearing fruit?

7. A second key for abiding in Christ is to love God's people the way Christ loved us (**vv.12-17**). Have you ever experienced sacrificial love in the church in a way that helped you understand Christ's love? Have you ever had to learn to love someone in the church who was difficult to love? Explain.

8. What are some factors that might cause someone to say they love Jesus but they don't like the church? How would you respond to someone who said this?

9. Third, we abide by pointing people to Christ even when the world opposes us (**vv.18-27**). In **v.27** Jesus tells His disciples to bear witness to Him, and He tells them they will experience opposition in their mission (**v.20**). Have you ever experienced opposition or known someone who experienced opposition for pointing people to Christ?

10. Should we be concerned if we don't ever experience opposition for Christ? What are some examples of opposition we should expect in our context if we are intentionally pointing people to Christ?

11. Based on the above three principles that describe what abiding in Christ looks like, how would you say you are doing in following Christ? What steps do you need to take in His strength to remain in Him and not fall away?