

Abiding in Christ

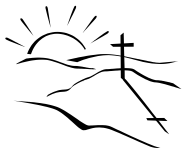
John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

I love history. Once I was taking care of a patient who was watching *Antiques Roadshow* on television. She commented that she love the stories behind the objects and wondered if she too may have some hidden treasure. I love the show because of the sense of history. I find it comforting to see how an object passed down through generations; can connect people to their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. I admire the reverence with which the owners retell the story behind their treasure. As with these earthly objects we, as Christians also hold something dear to us and we share our story.

John 15:1-2 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

Christ told his disciples that he was the vine and they where the branches, and if they stayed connected to him they would be fruitful; or successful. The success HE spoke of was the truth of salvation and being able to give this message to others. When we are diligent to study the scriptures and put into practice our faith, we are connected to Christ.

On the *Antiques Roadshow* the experts give advice to the owners telling them how to preserve their treasure. The advice is always the same; “Keep it just as it is, take care of it and you can enjoy your treasure for a very long time”. Just as on *Antiques Roadshow* the objects are more valuable when they have their original parts and have been preserved, so as Christians we have the best of what God has given to us when we hold dear the gift given to us and obey him. Not changing it as some do to objects that they do not know the purpose or value. Those changes take away from the uniqueness and the value of the object. The Gospel message is timeless; appropriate to all who receive it. It does not have to be changed or modernized. It will withstand the test of time. So study the scriptures, hold fast to holy living , praying, fasting and assembling together so that the treasure of this gift of salvation will benefit you and all who hear you and bring you before his presence with exceeding joy at the end.



Humbly submitted,

Elder Dawn Miller