

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

John 15:7-11

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I 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, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Study Guide 27 November 2011

How to Be a Christian and Happy at the Same Time



Summary

John talks about abiding in Jesus being the source of all life. Apart from Him we can do nothing. But as the passage develops he begins to talk about obedience, joy and love. We want to explore the life of a disciple as being rooted in the love of Christ by being completely obedient to Him, and living in great joy.

There are three aspects to abiding in Jesus – us abiding in Him, His words abiding in us, and us abiding in His love. God not only has a will of what needs to be done, He has a way that He wants it done, and we need to stay close to Jesus to know what this way is.

God's love precedes everything. This request to abide in His love is not a condition for our salvation, but more of a description of what we ought to be and do as Christians. Our salvation is not separate from our total commitment to God's perfect standards.

When we abide in Jesus, we live with true joy, we look and think like Jesus (which glorifies God), and we have effective prayer because our hearts and minds are conformed to the desired of God.

Key points

The grace of God does not diminish the commands of God – as a matter of fact, it raises the bar for Christian conduct.

Questions

- >>What does it mean that God is a God of joy?
- >>How does God's joy co-exist with God's law?
- >>Why does God give us His commandments?
- >>What does this passage teach me about my relationship with God?
- >>How does the joy of our faith shine through the things we do in our lives? How do we work, play and behave around people?

Final thoughts

God has loved us from the beginning of the world. He gave us His commandments because He loves us and wishes us to experience the fullness of joy that comes from a full knowledge of His grace.