

IDENTITY AND INTIMACY - HOW JESUS ABIDED AND HOW WE ABIDE

Identity and Intimacy

- 1) Jesus, as a man, was confident in His identity as God's Son and that He was accepted and enjoyed by the Father. This enabled Him to not be swayed by the evil one and the praise and rejection of man.
- 2) *Identity* answers the question, "Who am I?" *Intimacy* answers the question, "Am I loved simply for existing?" These determine how we will engage in our domain—representing and revealing God or representing and revealing the kingdom of darkness.
- 3) Jesus lived in *identity* by fellowship with the Spirit (*intimacy*) as He lived in a world set against Him (Hebrews 9:14). The same is true for us (Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:14).

Hebrews 9:14 - how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God...

Galatians 5:16 - I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- 4) Through fellowship with the Spirit, we have the same identity and intimacy Jesus did with the Father when He walked the earth (Mark 1:11; Galatians 3:26).

Galatians 3:26 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- 5) We have the same quality of relationship and the same measure of friendship Jesus had with the Father as He walked the earth.
 - a) Quality of relationship - same experience of the Father's emotions Jesus had with the Father as He walked the earth.
 - b) Measure of friendship - We have the same level of access Jesus had to the Father.
- 6) The fruit of the Spirit (God's character), gifts of the Spirit (God's power to help others through us), and wisdom of the Spirit (Perceiving God's way and plans rightly) Jesus demonstrated came from abiding in the Father's love. Abiding in Jesus, the same happens in and through us (1 John 2:6; 4:9).

Reflection. Write down what stands out to you from the above notes. What are you experiencing as you think about these things?

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How Jesus Abided in the Father

- 1) Jesus instructs us in John 5-8 on how He abided in the Father and in John 14-15 how we abide in Him.
- 2) In John 5, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath and experienced verbal persecution from Jewish leaders. He answered them by saying: *"I tell you the truth, **the Son can do nothing by himself**; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For **the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does**..." (Joh 5:19-20).*
- 3) *The Son can do nothing by Himself* - Jesus was humble because He was confident in His identity. He live unwearied and unburdened in the sense of trying to figure out life in His own strength. He was free of worry and anxiety. Jesus invites us to come to Him and learn this same way He walked the earth (Matthew 11:28-30).

*Matthew 11:28-30 - **Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

- 4) Though Jesus was fully God while being fully man, He did nothing without being taught by the Father (John 8:28). He was taught by the Father through engaging with the Spirit in Him (John 6:63). The Spirit teaches us to do the same (John 14:26).

*John 8:28 - "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that **I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me**.*

*John 14:26 - But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

- 5) *The Father loves the Son and show Him all He does* - Jesus defined success as being loved, not by accomplishments. Abiding in the Father's love was the priority of His life. From this, He spoke the Father's words and did His works.

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How We Abide in Jesus

- 1) We abide in Jesus just as He abided in the Father—through fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit teaches us to abide in Jesus's love while also calling out "Abba, Father" within us (Romans 5:5; 8:15; 1 John 2:27). By the Spirit we abide and experience the same *quality of relationship* and the same *measure of friendship* with the Father Jesus experienced as a man.
- 2) Just as Jesus said He could do nothing of Himself apart from the Father, He tells us we can do nothing apart from Him (John 5:19; 15:5).

*John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**"*

- 3) Just as Jesus remained in the Father's love by humbly trusting in His love, we remain in Jesus' love (John 5:20; 15:9).

*John 15:9 - "As the **Father has loved me, so have I loved you.** Now **remain in my love.**"*

- 4) Just as Jesus knew the Father would teach Him and show Him what to speak and how to live, so He teaches us as we fellowship with the Spirit (John 5:20; 8:28; 15:15; 1 Corinthians 2:13).

*John 15:15 - "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for **everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**"*

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 - Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** (13) This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but **in words taught by the Spirit,** expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

- 5) We know and rely on God's love as we trust that God lives in us by His Spirit (1 John 3:24; 4:15-16). We grow in trust through asking for and acknowledging the Spirit in us.

*1 John 3:24 - Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. **And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.***

*1 John 4:15-16 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God.** (16) **And we have known and believed the love that God has for us...***

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IDENTITY AND INTIMACY - HOW JESUS ABIDED AND HOW WE ABIDE

The Eternal Value of Abiding - John 15

- 1) Jesus declared Himself as the True Vine. He is the only source of lasting life (John 15:1). Only what is done in relationship with Him has eternal significance in His kingdom. We are branches in Him and bear fruit as we abide in Him (John 15:5).
- 2) A branch cannot bear fruit without remaining in its source (vine), so we cannot be changed into the likeness of Christ apart from abiding in Him (John 15:2-8). In Jesus, we bear the fruit of His life (nature) (Luke 3:8; Romans 7:4; Ephesians 5:8-9). Apart from Him, we bear the fruit of death (things opposite the nature of God) (Matthew 7:17-19; 15:13; Ephesians 5:11). As we learn to remain in Jesus' love, the fruit of His nature is the natural overflow (Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 5:16).
- 3) The foundation of the fruit is love (John 15:9, 12-13). There is no fruit apart from love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). We abide in God's love, keeping the first and greatest commandment (John 15:9). Loving others through abiding in Jesus' love is as natural as fruit growing on a branch remaining in the vine it originated from (Matthew 22:37-40; John 15:12-13).
- 4) We love others only through knowing the love of Jesus in and for us. This is how He loved. Jesus experienced the Father always considering Jesus above Himself (John 15:9). This is evidenced by Jesus being able to resist sin to the point of bloodshed through experiencing the Spirit's power in Him through His humble dependence on Him (John 15:10). The greatest gift we can give to the world is our own transformation through fellowship with the Spirit. We cannot love apart from love we have not experienced.
- 5) Jesus' primary desire is for us to know the Father's love the way He knew it as a man (John 15:9; 17:24-26). As this is His desire, it should be our primary request in prayer (John 15:7). I believe Jesus' primary request of the Father was to remain in His love, empowering Him to love others as Himself, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40). The same happens through Christ in us as we abide and this glorifies the Father (John 15:8; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14).
- 6) Joy (lasting satisfaction) is the result of abiding in Jesus' love (John 15:11).

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