

RADICAL THE BOOK

BY DAVID PLATT

CHAP. 3 BEGINNING AT THE END OF OURSELVES

Jn. 15:1-11

Supporting Passages Ex. 33:1-18; Mt. 11:28-30; Lk. 11:1-13, 24:45-49; Jn. 15:12-17;
Col. 1:24-2:5

The American dream has taught us to be independent people who are confident in ourselves to accomplish anything we want provided we work hard enough. Self-sufficiency is praised, independence is desired. The Gospel has different priorities it beckons us to die to ourselves and believe in God and trust in His power. While the goal of the American dream is to make much of us the goal of the Gospel is to make much of God. To accomplish this submission is especially difficult as Americans and even more so if you are in the military. How do we do it after a lifetime of bombardment of the great American Marketing machine?
As we read this passage how many times does the word “abide” appear?

I. **God Sovereignly Purposes Our Lives to Bear Fruit**

Jn. 15:1-2

The conversation of Jn 15 takes place as Jesus and His disciples are leaving the upper room where they just took the Passover Meal and are on their way to the garden of Gethsemane. The OT describes Israel as God’s vine or vineyard [Isa. 5:1-7](#); Jer. 2:21; Ezek. 15, 19:10; Hos. 10:1 & Ps 80:8. The Disciples heard Jesus describe Himself as the true vine, the true Israel then He finishes the last of His 7 I AM statements stating that Vs. 5 “I am the vine...”.

Those who never bear fruit are branches that Jesus cuts off see Heb 10:26-27, 6:4-6 Mk. 3:28-30, scary thought. Pruning may not be pleasant yet this discipline causes a harvest of righteousness. Heb 12:11. See Rev 3:19. Does anyone have a testimony of being pruned?

In contrast, **he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. Could an example of this be Michelle Napier?**

Fruit is not limited to soul winning. In this chapter, answered prayer, joy, and love are mentioned as fruit ([15:7](#), [11-12](#)). [Galatians 5:22-24](#) and [2 Peter 1:5-8](#) describe additional fruit,

— Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary

READ PP 45-46 "It is a dream....they are" How does this quote contrast w/ Gospel?

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of the pruning and cutting off?
2. Considering the role that God plays in the life of the branches what can we determine is the role of the branches? Produce fruit for the vine & vinedresser.
3. On pages 43-45 How had God pruned Raden? From security in fighting to security in God.

II. Abiding In Christ is the Only Way to a Fruitful Life

Jn. 15:3-5

We move from pruning to cleansing seeming out of place until you realize that the root word for prune and cleanse is the same. Jesus' statement "you are already clean" could read "you are already pruned". These verses show that it is God who is at work producing the fruit we just must remain "abiding" then he will accomplish the production. Does that mean we just remain faithful at reading and studying the Word...kind of...the Word tells us to go and tell if we remain and study indefinitely then we disobey. Christ's life flows through believers as they abide in Him.

The abiding believer is the only genuine believer.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is an example of one cut off? Judas.
2. What is the fruit that we produce? New believers and the Fruit of the Spirit
3. So what does Jesus mean when He says apart from me you can do nothing? There are plenty of non-believers who accomplish great things...Bill Gates What ability does the branch have to produce fruit....stick it in water fertilize the water will it bear fruit?
4. So how do we abide in Him? Relationship, in the word, prayer
5. How were the Israelites abiding in God when they defeated Jericho?

III. Spiritual Fruitfulness is Evidence of our Abiding in Christ Jn. 15:6-8

The scripture says all who abide in Christ will bear fruit; those who are not abiding will not bear fruit. Do not confuse cause and result. Fruit is evidence of salvation NOT the cause of salvation.

QUESTIONS:

1. So how can we tell if we are abiding in Him? We are fruitful
2. What happens to our purpose in life when we are abiding in Christ and producing fruit?
3. Who is an example of one cut off? Judas
4. Who are the burned branches that are cut off? Only 2 possibilities:
 - a. are true believers who have lost their salvation because they were cut off from Christ
 - b. professing to be Christians who, like Judas Iscariot, are not genuinely saved and therefore are judged. Judas, a disciple of Jesus, seemed like a branch, but he did not truly believe
5. When our purpose is fulfilling God's mission He will give us whatever we need.

IV. Abiding in Christ's Power Produces Joy in Our Lives Jn. 15:9-11

Vs, 9 we are to remain or dwell in the Agape love of Christ that is perfect love. This love comes from obedience and obedience comes from love. REVIEW pp. 56-59

QUESTIONS:

1. How does accepting discipline, being obedient and abiding in Christ offer joy?
2. Why is placing our trust in God's power instead of our own capabilities so hard for us?