

**SWEET SUMMER – LIFE FORMED BY THE SPIRIT
“ABIDE”**

**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 15; GALATIANS 5
SPEAKER: SR. PASTOR SHANE CARROLL
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INTRODUCTION

- Paul is writing to remind them they become God's people belonging to the crucified and risen Messiah and receiving the Spirit.
- Galatians 1:1-10, "... ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father...⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel..."

I. WHAT IT MEANS TO ABIDE

- John 15:1-3, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser...every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit..."
- JMC/Willard - "God is not opposed to effort, but Grace is opposed to earning."
- Becoming more like Jesus is not built on independence from God, but dependence upon Him.
- John 15:4-5, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me...for apart from Me you can do nothing."
- Abide – menō: remaining, continuing in a relationship, staying connected, enduring, and not departing.
- We get busy doing things for Jesus while quietly drifting from being with Jesus.

- Or We quietly quit and slowly accept sin as growth and call it good enough.
- Abiding is the ongoing life of dependence, staying connected to Jesus and allow His life to bear fruit in us.
- The goal of the Christian life is not merely doing things for Jesus, but remaining deeply connected to Him.

II. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

- Paul intentionally contrasts two kinds of lives: the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
- Galatians 5:16-17, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh..."
- Galatians 5:18-21, "...¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry..."
- Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
- The Spirit produces what our effort cannot.
- God often works more like a gardener than a mechanic.
- The Spirit is rarely in a hurry, but He is always at work.
- Where the Spirit is truly at work, the life of Jesus slowly becomes visible.
- The work of Spirit requires a daily surrender and obedience.

CLOSE

- John 15:9-11 ESV, "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love..."
- John 15:12-18 ESV, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you...I have called you friends...¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."