

Sermon Handout

Abide in Christ

I John 2:26-29

- I. Strong affinity between John's gospel & his first letter**
 - a. Preexistence of Christ Jn 1:1-2; I Jn 1:1-2
 - b. Light & Life motif Jn 1:4-9; I Jn 1:5-7 *cf.* Jn 3:19-21
 - c. In, but not of, the world Jn 15:18-20; I Jn 2:15-17
 - d. Especially evident in the Upper Room discourse Jn 14-17
This is particularly important in the text now before us.

- II. The Command to Abide in Christ v. 28; Jn 15:4ff**
 - a. Abiding in Jesus is essential to the Christian life Jn 15:4-6, 9
 - b. Our abiding in Jesus is a work of the Holy Spirit v. 27
 - i. The benediction of II Cor 13:14 *cf.* Jn 15:26; 16:12-15
 1. Grace is manifested by Jesus Jn 1:17
 2. Love originates with the Father Jn 3:16; 15:9-10
 3. Fellowship is the Holy Spirit's work I Jn 1:3
Eph 2:17-22; I Cor 12:11-14 *cf.* 10:1-4
 - ii. And yet we are commanded to "abide in him"
We are called to cooperate with what the Spirit is doing.

- III. What does it mean to "Abide in Christ?"**
 - a. Consider the experience of the disciples
 - i. First Jesus tells them to "come" and "follow" him
Mt 11:28-30; Jn 1:39, 43; Mk 2:13-14
 - ii. Later, to those who "came," he tells them to "abide" Jn 15:1-11
 - b. Abiding in Jesus has several facets
 - i. Primarily it involves an identity of life Jn 15:4 *cf.* Jn 10:27-30
 - ii. Fruitbearing Jn 15:5-6, 8 *see* Gal 5:22-25
 - iii. Confidence in prayer (identity of purpose) Jn 15:7
 - iv. Mutual love Jn 15:9
 - v. Keeping the Commandments Jn 15:10
 - vi. Produces Christian joy Jn 15:11
 - c. Abiding in Jesus necessarily involves faith (trust in God's work)
 - i. The Spirit teaches us life in Christ, not merely data v. 27
 - ii. The Spirit's work is not visible Jn 3:8; Heb 11:1-3