



Speaker: Matt Magee

Series: Abide: Cultivating Intimacy with Christ

Sermon Title: Cultivating Intimacy with Christ in a New Year

Scripture: [John 15:1-17](#)

(Pro Tip: click on the passages linked above to be taken to a page with all the passages in one location.)

Main Idea: Abide in Christ by Continuing Fellowship in His Word and Keeping His Commandments.

OUTLINE

1. Jesus is the "true vine" and the Father is the "vine-dresser."
2. Continue fellowship in God's Word and keep His commandments
3. Approach 2025 with a similar mindset as the Father: as a vine-dresser cutting back (cleaning up) what is not bearing fruit in keeping with righteousness and pruning what is bearing godly fruit according to the Word.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. How was everyone's Christmas? Favorite moment?
2. How do you usually go about planning for a new year?
3. Read Isaiah 5:1-7 and 27:2-6. Who is being referred to here, and in what terms? Now read Ps. 80:8-12 and discuss the imagery used to describe Israel and Lord. What is the Psalmist's prayer in verses 1-7; 14-19?
4. Pastor Matt's main idea/proposition was Abide in Christ by Continuing Fellowship in His Word and Keeping His Commandments. Keep this in mind as you work through this guide.
5. As a group, outline the main themes of John 15 according to the following verse divisions:
 - Verses 1 & 5: Jesus is _____; the Father is _____.

- Verses 1, 5, 14-15: Christians are _____.
- Verses 2 & 6:
- Verses 3-5:
- Verse 7-8:
- Verses 9-11:
- According to verses. 11 & 17, what is Jesus' threefold purpose for saying these things?
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- Verses 12-17:

6. Finish these sentences, according to the verse references (in parentheses):

- Abide ___ ___ (4)
- If you abide in me and ___ _____ (7)...
- _____ (9)
- If you _____, you will abide in my love (10)
- This is my commandment, that you _____ as _____ loved you (12).

7. Personal applications:

- Are you continuing fellowship with the Lord through His Word? What are your patterns (be specific)? How can you deepen your fellowship with the Lord?
- Are you keeping God's commandments?
- Looking at the year ahead and thinking like a vine-dresser, what needs to be cut back (cleaned up) that is not bearing fruit in keeping with righteousness?
- What needs to be pruned that is bearing godly fruit according to the Word?
- Take a look at twenty questions for a new year (in these two articles):
 - [Ten Questions for a New Year](#)
 - [Ten \(More\) Questions for a New Year](#)