

Message Two

Living in the Divine Trinity (1)

Abiding in Christ as the True Vine

Hymns: 1162, 1163

Scripture Reading: John 15:1, 4-5; 1 John 2:6, 20, 24, 27; 3:22-24

- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- 1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.
- 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
- 1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- 1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.
- 1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

I. We need to see the practical experience of living in and with the Divine Trinity—John 14:20, 26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 3:16-17:

- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- John 14:26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- 2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Eph. 2:18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.
- Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

A. The Gospel of John is a book on living in and with the Divine Trinity—15:1, 4-5.

- John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- B. The truth concerning living in and with the Divine Trinity is greatly expounded in the Epistles, especially in those written by Paul.
- C. In the Epistles we can see all the practicalities and details of living in and with the Divine Trinity.
- D. We need to be brought into the experiences of living in the Divine Trinity and with the Divine Trinity.

II. The Lord Jesus told us in John 15 that He is the vine and that we are the branches of the vine—v. 5:

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- A. As the branches of the vine, we should abide in Him; then He will abide in us—vv. 4-5.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- B. To abide in Christ is to live in Christ, and to live in Christ is to live in the Divine Trinity—Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 1:30.

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

- C. To have Christ abide in us is to have the Triune God living in us; this is to live with the Divine Trinity—John 15:4-5; Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 13:14.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- D. When we abide in Him, we live in Him, and when we have Him abide in us, we live with Him—John 15:4-5, 7.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

III. We live in the Divine Trinity by abiding in Christ as the true vine—vv. 1, 5:

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- A. The true vine with its branches—Christ the Son with the believers in the Son—is the organism of the Triune God in the divine economy to grow with His riches and express His life—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 3:9; John 15:1, 5:

1 Tim. 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Eph. 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1. The function of the true vine as a sign of the Son is for the Triune God to have an organism in the Son for His multiplication, spreading, and glorification in His divine life—vv. 8, 16.

John 15:8 In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so you will become My disciples.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

2. The Father as the husbandman is the source and the founder; God the Son is the center, the embodiment, and the manifestation; God the Spirit is the reality and realization; and the branches are the Body, the corporate expression—vv. 1, 4-5, 26:

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

- a. All that the Father is and has is embodied in Christ the Son and then realized in the Spirit as the reality—16:13-15.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.

John 16:15 All that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare it to you.

- b. All that the Spirit has is wrought into us, the branches, to be expressed and testified through us; in this way the processed Triune God is expressed, manifested, and glorified in the church—Eph. 3:16-21.

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph. 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

Eph. 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Eph. 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

B. As branches of the vine, we need to abide in the vine—John 15:4-5:

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1. When we believed in the Lord Jesus, He branched into us, and we became branches in Him—3:15.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

2. To be in the Lord is a matter of union; to abide in the Lord is a matter of fellowship—1 Cor. 1:9, 30.

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

3. Our abiding in Christ as the vine depends on seeing a clear vision that we are branches in the vine; once we see that we are branches in the vine, we need to maintain the fellowship between us and the Lord—John 15:2.

John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it that it may bear more fruit.

4. The Christian life is a life of abiding in the Lord—1 John 2:24, 27-28; 4:13:

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that if He is manifested, we may have boldness and not be put to shame from Him at His coming.

1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

a. To abide in the Lord is to be one spirit with Him—1 Cor. 6:17.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

b. Our abiding in Christ is the condition of His abiding in us—John 15:4a, 5a.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

C. We need to abide in the Lord, in the Son, in the Father, and in God—1 John 2:6, 24; 3:22-24:

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

- 1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.
- 1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

1. To abide in Christ is to abide in the Lord—2:6:

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.

- a. The Lord is the One who possesses all things, rules over all things, and exercises His sovereignty over all things and all people—Rev. 1:5.

Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

- b. We are living in the One who is the Lord of the universe—Eph. 1:20-23.

Eph. 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph. 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

2. To abide in the Son concerns the sonship of Christ—Matt. 3:17; 17:5:

Matt. 3:17 And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight.

Matt. 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

- a. The Son is the One who possesses the Father's life with the Father's nature to express the Father—John 5:26.

John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;

- b. When we are abiding in the Son, we enjoy our Father's life and nature and the right to express Him and enjoy all His possessions—Eph. 1:14.

Eph. 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

3. We are also abiding in the Father, who takes care of us in every way and in everything—1 John 2:24:

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

- a. When we abide in the Son, we abide in the Father because the Son and the Father are one—vv. 23-24.

1 John 2:23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 2:24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it abide in you. If that which you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

b. When we are living in the Triune God, we are living as sons—Heb. 2:10.

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

4. We need to be those who are abiding in God—1 John 3:24:

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

a. To abide in God is to have the faith in the Son of God and to have the love of God to love all the brothers—v. 23.

1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.

b. We abide in God by the Spirit of God; the link between us and God, the Father, the Son, the Lord, and Christ is the Spirit—vv. 22-24.

1 John 3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.

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

D. We abide in the Triune God by the teaching of the anointing—2:27:

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

1. The anointing is the moving and the working of the indwelling compound Spirit, the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit—v. 20; 1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:6.

1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2. We abide in the divine fellowship with Christ by experiencing the cleansing of the Lord's blood and the application of the anointing Spirit to our inner being—John 15:4-5; 1 John 1:5, 7; 2:20, 27.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.

- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
3. Christ as the Head is the anointed One and the anointing One, and we are His members enjoying Him as the inner anointing—2 Cor. 1:21-22.
- 2 Cor. 1:21 But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God,
- 2 Cor. 1:22 He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
4. The anointing, as the moving and working of the compound Spirit within us, anoints God into us so that we may be saturated with God, possess God, and understand the mind of God; the anointing communicates the mind of Christ as the Head of the Body to His members by the inner sense, the inner consciousness, of life—Psa. 133; 1 Cor. 2:16; Rom. 8:6, 27.
- Psa. 133 A Song of Ascents. Of David
- Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
- Psa. 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
- Psa. 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
- 1 Cor. 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.
- Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
- Rom. 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.
5. The teaching of the anointing of the Spirit is an inner sense of life—Acts 16:6-7; 2 Cor. 2:13.
- Acts 16:6 And they passed through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.
- Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- 2 Cor. 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
6. If our natural life is dealt with by the cross and if we submit to the headship of Christ and live the Body life, we will have the Spirit's anointing and enjoy the fellowship of the Body—Eph. 4:3-6, 15-16.
- Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
- Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph. 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph. 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.