

May 13, 2012

“Choosing to Abide”

Scripture: John 15:1-11

Jesus told his disciples (and tells us), “I am the Vine, you are the branches. Abide in me and I will abide in you.” This is a great teacher, using a memorable visual aide. The disciples would have understood this image immediately, because: 1) vineyards abound in Israel/Palestine 2) Hebrew scriptures use the image frequently.

To ‘abide’ is to stay close, to remain connected. Grape branches that do not stay connected die. Disciples who do not stay connected to Jesus, whither as well – producing no fruit, and doing no good.

Abiding has great benefits. Abiding allows us to:

- keep believing that love is stronger than fear.
- keep living with the sure knowledge that we are loved.
- keep living with a sense of abundance, as opposed to the world’s view of scarcity.
- keep living generously.
- keep joy going in our lives.
- keep forgiving ourselves
- stay able to grant forgiveness when other people
- keep believing that God is good.
- live with a sense of hope, staying out of despair.
- stay in the awareness that you are here for a purpose.
- keep bearing fruit.
- keep inviting friends and neighbors to turn to Jesus and to the church.

Let us be people who abide! Amen.