

# Abide

Understanding the  
secrets of living for Jesus

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Warren W. Wiersbe

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Secret One:

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## The Secret of Living is Fruitbearing



*He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit ...*

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last ...*

(Jn. 15:2, 8, 16)

What and who am I? Why am I here?

You must answer these questions correctly if life is to have meaning for you. The man who calls a spanner a screwdriver, and who tries to use it as a screwdriver, is heading for frustration and failure. The person who does not know *who* and *what* he is will experience the same kind of frustration and failure. It is this identity crisis that has threatened and even destroyed many people in society today.

The Christian need not have an identity crisis. Jesus tells us who we are and why we are here. We are branches, and he is the Vine. We are here to bear fruit. Once you accept this simple fact, you are on the way to making your life meaningful and useful.

How did you become a branch in Christ, the Vine? By trusting him as your Saviour and Lord. You have, by faith, a living relationship with Christ. You are not simply a member of a religious group; you are a living branch in the living Vine. When you yielded to Christ, a living union was formed between you and the Lord. Just as the branch gets its life from the vine, so the believer gets his life from Jesus Christ.

If you do not have this living union with Christ, you cannot bear fruit. Fruit is the result of life. You can

manufacture religious substitutes, but they will not be fruit.

One of the reasons God saved you is that you might bear fruit in this world. You are living in a hungry world where people are starving for spiritual reality. *The branch does not bear fruit for the branch to eat, but for others to eat.* It is one of the great joys of life to share this fruit with others. That is why we are here.

Fruitbearing is a beautiful process. First there are the leaves; then the flowers; then the fruit. God provides the water from beneath and the sun from above. Day by day the branches develop; day by day the fruit is produced. If you are looking for instant fruitfulness, you will be disappointed. Fruit must be cultivated. As we shall see later, the branch must abide in the Vine and draw upon His abundant life.

So, the reason God made you and saved you is that you might bear fruit in this world. You are a branch and he is the Vine. He has put you where you are that you might accomplish His special purpose. There is fruit to be produced where you are that nobody else can produce but you. *Accept the glory and the responsibility of being one of His branches.*