

New Prayer Concerns:

Ruby Comerford is awaiting test results.

Others in our Prayers:

Grady Harper, Jr., Jane Free, Tom Gatlin, Janice Rabon, Bobby Goodwin, Hannah Mahler, Mary Mahler

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Lester & Dora Gatlin, Royce & Nada Whittington, the Hall family, Missy Williams, Sherry West, Robby Dittmann, Pearson Martin, Frank Faircloth, Hilda Barnett, C.E. Comerford

Prayer List Updates:

If you have prayer list items that need to be added or deleted, please make sure to let one of the Elders know! Names will be removed from the prayer list after 3 weeks if there is no update.

Upcoming Celebrations:

August

All celebrations in August have passed.

September

7th Kim Martin's birthday

7th Jeff & Kim Martin's anniversary

11th Ellis Sizemore's birthday

12th Laura Thompson's birthday

15th Joe & Rhonda Talley's anniversary

17th Jay & Sherry West's anniversary

19th Tommy Sr. & Marsha Harper's anniversary

23rd Betty Sizemore's birthday

24th David Hill's birthday

27th Eric Spooner's birthday

Upcoming Events:

Aug 16th - Sunday Fellowship

Contribution:

8/9 - \$653.00

Year-to-date July - \$27,613.02

Contacts:

Elder Royce Whittington 246-3924
wwhittin@bellsouth.net

Elder Lester Gatlin 850-627-6598

Tim Mahler, Minister 850-893-0416
chmahler@embarqmail.com

Website:

bainbridgechurchofchrist.home.mchsi.com

Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

August 16th, 2009



Elders

Lester Gatlin
Royce Whittington

Deacons

Mitchell Comerford
Don Rabon
Chad Waddell

Minister

Tim Mahler

Services:

Sunday: 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Worship
6:00pm Worship/Youth Program
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

The Abiding Life © 1993 Jim Elliff

The abiding life is the true Christian life. Jesus said, "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:6)

John 15 gives us the pattern for spiritual growth and effectiveness as believers. In the passage, we are called branches, Christ is the vine, and the Father is the vinedresser. What are the characteristics of authentic branches?

1. **They bear the fruit of Christ's character and power.** Fruit is the life of Christ through the believer. It is excess life. The life of the Christian is to be one of daily dependence on Christ, rather than himself. *Do people see Christ in you?*
 - Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away.. .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. 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. (vv.2a,4-5)
2. **They are pruned by God.** God cuts off the diseased and the nonessential aspects of the believer's life. It is up to the vinedresser to determine what is and is not useful. Pruning is painful but necessary. *Is this your experience?*
 - Every branch that bears fruit, He primes it, that it may bear more fruit. (v. 2b)
3. **They know the joy of living by God's Word and prayer.** God will entrust much in prayer to those whose minds are being renewed through His Word, for they pray according to His will. *Have you learned to live by God's Word and prayer?*
 - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. (v. 7)
4. **They keep God's commandments.** *Do you obey Him?*
 - If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. (v. 10)

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Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring **toothbrushes**.

Next Sunday, please bring **toilet tissue**.

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5. **They love those who are in Christ.** Christ taught us love by sacrifice. While loving all men, abiding Christians have a special affection for believers and eagerly express this love in the local church. *Is love the prominent feature of your life?*
 - This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (vv. 12-13)
6. **They are often misunderstood.** *Does the world love you or hate you?*
 - a. If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (vv. 18-20)
7. **They speak openly of Christ and what He has done.** That which is in the heart comes out of the mouth. *Do you speak of Christ?*
 - a. When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with me from the beginning. (vv. 26-27)

The abiding life is the ONLY true Christian life.
Is it the life you lead?

By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (v. 8)