

Abiding & Abounding

April 28th, 2024

Dave McNeely

John 15:1-17

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and abide in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Jesus tells us that "A tree will be known by its fruit" (Matthew 7). When you look at your own life, how would you evaluate the fruit that you have produced? What does it say about who you are and what you value?

Paul famously identified some of the fruit of the Holy Spirit as Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. If you were creating a list of fruit of an "unholy" Spirit, what would you include on the list?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION / FOOD PANTRY - APRIL 28TH

As we honor Christ's sacrificial act for us through a monthly rhythm of communion, we also invite you to a monthly rhythm of honoring our neighbors in need by stocking the shelves of our pantry with food and toiletry items.

As we've donated once a month to Community Food Connection in the past, we will begin a monthly effort to fill our own pantry that will coincide with Sundays that we take communion. Please consider bringing in food items, toiletries, or cash/check donations that will go directly towards the purchasing groceries.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are putting together a church directory. If you are interested in participating, you can go to this link or use this QR code to fill out the information form. We will also have some paper forms on the table. If you use the paper form, please make sure to share your photos with one of the elders so we can get them included.

<https://forms.gle/vJQQ3HwJTZ4wMDAs6>



WOMEN OF EKKLESIA

The women of Ekklesia will be getting together on **May 1st at Bird and the Book** for an evening of engaging questions and conversation with Table Topics, a light and simple way to chat, eat snacks, and enjoy one another's company through this spring and summer! We'll be meeting every other **Wednesday at 6:30pm**. Please see Hannah with any questions.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sign up sheets are available for greeters and snacks. We want to make sure everyone feels welcome and loved. Sign up today!

COMMUNITY FOOD BOXES

Apr - Bennett

May - Collins

Jun - Schuler

Jul - Bradshaw

PRAYER

Your church family wants to pray for you. Send prayer requests to Terri Bradshaw at: terri@eklovewell.org

Sign up for emails at <https://eklovewell.org/contact>

ONLINE GIVING

<https://paypal.me/eklovewell>

*PayPal charges a fee of 1.9% + \$.49 on donations given online.