



Where Do You Abide?

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

Abide

It's a word that we don't use very often in our daily conversations with others. What does the word even mean? A simple definition could be stated as follows: to live or to stay somewhere.

My mind is thinking beyond just a physical place. What about how we spend our days with the gift of time that God gives all people? Many "abide" in their work, in material things, or maybe another person. Today, many stare at their screens and spend countless hours wandering around the internet or social media. Technology, and the ways many use it for entertainment, is a place where many "abide" like never before.

Jesus Christ in John 15 had some very strong words on where we must abide. He taught the necessity of an ongoing devotion to Him by giving this command, "Abide in me."

There is nothing uniquely religious about the word *abide*. In the language of the New Testament, it is the ordinary word for "stay" or "continue" or sometimes "dwell." Jesus meant: "Stay in me. Continue in me. Keep me for your dwelling." It is the lifelong means of encountering Jesus.

The context of this command is the analogy of a vine and its branches. Jesus compares himself to the vine and us to branches. This picture helps us understand what Jesus meant by abiding in him. The main point of the analogy is that power to

bear fruit—that is, power to live a fruitful life of Christ-like love (John 15:12)—flows from Jesus if we stay vitally connected to him. Jesus is straightforward in claiming to be the power that we need to live fruitful lives. He says, "Apart from me you can do nothing."

Nothing! Really? Jesus reveals: "Without me you can do nothing truly good, truly God honoring, or Christ-exalting or eternally helpful for others." Abiding in Jesus means staying vitally connected, hour by hour, to the one who alone produces in our lives everything He commands. So how do we abide in Jesus? What does this practically look like?

Jesus uses two phrases that point to the answer. He refers to abiding in His *love*. And He refers to abiding in His *word*. Both of these points toward abiding as continual *trust* in the truth of Jesus's words and in the certainty of His love.

By abiding in His love, we continue to believe, moment by moment, that we are loved. By abiding in His word, we keep on trusting His word. We keep on trusting what He revealed about myself in the pages of Scripture.

Today as you read these thoughts, I wonder: where do you abide? May we choose *daily* to abide in Jesus and by doing so we will Make Much of Jesus.

Keep Abiding in Jesus,
Pastor Michael

MEN_{of}HONOR

Men, on May 16 we have an opportunity to step into something deeper—something stronger. Our upcoming men's event, "Act Like Men, Be Strong," rooted in 1 Corinthians 16:13, is more than just a gathering. It's a call.

A call to examine what is shaping us.

Every day, something is forming your faith—your habits, your influences, your priorities. The question is: *are those things drawing you closer to Jesus, or pulling you away?* If we are going to *Make Much of Jesus* in every day and in every way, it starts with intentionally putting Him at the center of our lives.

But faith doesn't grow in isolation.

Who is shaping your character? Who has permission to challenge you, encourage you, and speak truth into your life? Too many men try to go it alone, and it leaves them vulnerable and stagnant. God designed us for brotherhood—for relationships that sharpen us and strengthen our walk with Christ.

And then there's the bigger question: where is God calling you to step up?

Where is He challenging you toward greater purpose and impact—in your home, your workplace, your church? Strength in the Christian life isn't just about endurance; it's about obedience. It's about courageously saying "yes" when God calls, even when it's uncomfortable.

This event is a chance to pause and take stock. To be challenged. To be encouraged. To stand shoulder to shoulder with other men who want to live with purpose and conviction.

So come ready. Come expectant. Come willing to be sharpened.

Let's be men who are watchful, who stand firm in the faith, who act like men, and who are strong—not in ourselves, but in Christ.

And together, let's *Make Much of Jesus*—every day, in every way.

Sign-up in the foyer

Saturday
May 16

MEN_{of}HONOR

JOURNEY CHURCH • CLINTON

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 to Noon

An engaging morning with
keynote speaker Kevin Smith



May 3

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Lunch

All are invited to attend. Members, please make it a priority.

Please stay for lunch in the fellowship hall followed by the meeting, which will bring us up to date with the ministries and finances of the church.



Missionary Focus - Jared & Anna Olander

Our missionary highlight this month is Jared and Anna Olander. They are serving at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya at this time. They have also served in Sudan and North Africa working with Muslims.

Update & Prayer Requests:

Highlights this term:

1. Watching Malindi and Sahara compete in their soccer teams.
2. Local AIC Church. Taking some RVA students down to the valley to a small local Church on Sunday mornings for a Children's Ministry.
3. Piki rides with Collins! It's fun to see our kids growing up and maturing and being able to do more things. About once a week I take Collins out on a Piki (motorcycle) ride on paths and side roads to some fun places where he can ride around a bit. He crashes at least once every time, but he's becoming more and more resilient!
4. Anna is really enjoying her new job as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. She has had a new job every year here at RVA (a result of Missionaries continually coming and going), but we're really praying that she can keep this one for a while!
5. Rugby pre-season has started, and Jared is really enjoying getting to work with the boys and getting to know them better.

Praises:

1. Opportunities to mentor more students this year.
2. Anna has had the opportunity to return to the US for a couple of weeks to spend time with her parents and help them take care of some health concerns.
3. Several students have been baptized this year, and we are seeing some fruit in the lives of some of our students!
4. We are receiving some great updates from ministry partners in North Africa.

One family is reporting a great movement in their area, and it sounds like Muslims are surrendering their lives and following Jesus in numbers they have never seen before! Each week there is a report of another person surrendering and following Jesus! Praise God! Pray that He will continue to move in North Africa!

Prayer Requests:

1. Health Concerns. Jared will most likely make a solo trip to the US in the next couple of months to have a surgery. Pray for wisdom as we manage the logistics and challenges of scheduling things from Kenya with doctors in the US, and all the travel involved.
2. Jared's Masters Studies. Jared is working on his Masters while still coaching and teaching 4 classes at RVA. It is a lot of work at times. Pray for wisdom, time management, and that he can finish his final applied project by August deadline.
3. Fruit. Pray for our students. Most come from solid Christian families, but we are praying that their faith will become their own. Some of our students are going through their rebellious teenage years, and it is challenging at times to keep on working with them.
4. RVA Staff! We still have a number of needs at RVA. Please pray for RVA and our ministry to Missionary Kids which allows many to serve all over Africa. Our needs for next year include:
 - Dorm Parents
 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Various Youth Ministry Roles

If you have any questions about RVA and our ministry, don't hesitate to reach out to us! Thanks again for all of your prayers and support.

In His Strength, Jared and Anna Olander

SUMMER CAMP 2026

June 8-11 | 6:00-8:30 pm



Ages: Children who have finished Kindergarten through 5 Grade

FREE family meal served each evening from 5:15-5:45 pm

Register online to guarantee your child's choice of activity!

<http://www.journeyclinton.org/camp>



Thursday will be a Family Fest open to the whole community! Invite your friends and neighbors for a fun evening!

Talk to Joy Lower or email her at joyl@journeyclinton.org for more information.



Come join the fun!

