



## Abiding in Christ

*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5*

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## Scripture References in the Writings of St. John

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*(Abiding in Christ is mentioned 24 times in the brief letter of 1 John)*

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### Related Words and Phrases Describing Abiding in Christ

- Abiding in Christ – Abiding in him
- In him – In me – In Christ
- Union with Christ
- Mutual indwelling
- Participation
- Fellowship

*Keep them in mind when reading the Bible, especially the writings of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. John*

**John 5:38** and you do not have his word **abiding in you**, for you do not believe him whom he has sent.

**John 6:56** He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me**, and I in him.

**John 15:4** **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**. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides in me**, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If a man does not **abide in me**, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you **abide in me**, and my words **abide in you**, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

**John 15:9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; **abide in my love**. **10** 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**.

**John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should **abide**; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

**1 John 2:6** he who says he **abides in him** ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



**1 John 2:10** He who loves his brother **abides** in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling.

**1 John 2:14** I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God **abides** in you, and you have overcome the Evil One.

**1 John 2:17** And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God **abides** for ever.

**1 John 2:24** Let what you heard from the beginning **abide** in you. If what you heard from the beginning **abides** in you, then you will **abide** in the Son and in the Father.

**1 John 2:27** but the anointing which you received from him **abides** in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, **abide** in him. **28** And now, little children, **abide** in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

**1 John 3:6** Any one who **abides** in him does not sin; any one who sins has not seen him, nor has he known him.

**1 John 3:9** Any one born of God does not commit sin; for God's seed **abides** in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

**1 John 3:15** Any one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life **abiding** in him.

**1 John 3:17** But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love **abide** in him?

**1 John 3:24** All who keep his commandments **abide** in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he **abides** in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

**1 John 4:12** No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God **abides** in us and his love is perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we **abide** in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit.

**1 John 4:15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God **abides** in him, and he in God. **16** So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who **abides** in love **abides** in God, and God **abides** in him.

**2 John 2** because of the truth which **abides** in us and will be with us for ever:

**2 John 9** Any one who goes ahead and does not **abide** in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who **abides** in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son.

## Important “In Him” Scriptures in 1 John

*(without the explicit mention of “abide”)*

**1 John 2:5** but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him:

**1 John 2:8** Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.

**1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

## Key Words Related to Abiding in Christ and Union with Christ

**Gk. *koinōnía* = fellowship = participation = union = mutual indwelling**

**Gk. *koinōnos* = partner = sharer** (word related to *koinōnía*)

**1 John 1:3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have **fellowship** with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**1 John 1:6** If we say we have **fellowship** with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

*The bond that unites Christians begins with the living union (**koinōnía**) with the Father and the Son. This life-giving and life-sharing bond could be called “the key to the successful Christian life” in the first and twenty-first centuries. This isn’t just a fact for theology books. Rather, it’s meant to be **an experienced reality for all Christians**.*

**1 Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us **his precious and very great promises**, so that through them you may

become **partakers** (*koinōnos*) of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

### **Merriam-Webster English definition of koinonia**

1. The Christian fellowship or body of believers
2. Intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community

### **Etymology**

Greek *koinōnia* communion, association, partnership, from *koinos* common

*This handout is produced in conjunction with the Faith & Family Catholic Bible Podcast on the First Letter of John, starting with episode 538 entitled, “Abiding in Christ.” For more resources, visit us online at [www.BibleforCatholics.com](http://www.BibleforCatholics.com).*

*Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version; Second Catholic Edition (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2006).*