



A SEAT AT THE TABLE

A Seat at the Table // Part 5

Introduction:

This week Matt continues a new series called '**A Seat at the Table**' with '**Part 5**'. What is the table and who gets a seat? If the church is the table where people come to be fed, who is this table for?

This week we continue looking at the chair for the new Christian. Last week we started looking at the process to move from the New Christian chair into the Mature Christian chair, and how that required 'Tapping Out' or full & complete surrender. This week we are looking at an additional concept, what it means to **Abide**.

Questions:

1. What does the word Abide mean? Why could it be important as a Christian to Abide in Jesus? Do you know what it takes for you to Abide in Jesus? How are you doing at abiding? **John 15:1**
2. What is important about the vine imagery from the Old Testament? How would the Jewish listeners have reacted to that reference by Jesus? How is Jesus saying to them that He is doing what they couldn't do for themselves? **John 15:1**
3. If Jesus is the vine, and as Christians we are the branches why should you expect pruning in your life? What is the purpose of pruning for the life of a Christian? What changes if you realize that pruning is really a blessing? How does pruning (trials) lead to growth? **John 15:2**
4. What if it's true that to be a Christian means bearing fruit? Does your life bear fruit? Why is it important to bear fruit? What's wrong with bearing fruit like the Pharisees?

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5. Why is it vitally important how you define fruit? What is the fruit of a Christian's life? What should the fruit of your life look like? What does it take for your life to bear fruit? **Galatians 5:22-23**
6. For a Christian, why is it important to know that **your position is in His presence**? How does that relate to you being clean? What did you do to become clean? How is union with Jesus one of the great supernatural mysteries? Do you know that you can't do anything to separate yourself from Jesus, that you can't do anything to offend Him? **John 15:3-7**
7. Why is it a key principle that **we're given the power to love**? Do you truly understand your position in Jesus? If you don't, how can that lead you to misunderstand the text in John 15:8-11? What does it mean that love drives obedience, and how does that lead to joy? **John 15:8-11**

Key takeaway: *Are you exhausted trying to be a good Christian, trying to do all the right things so that God will be happy with you? Jesus has become what you can not become, He did what you could never do, and what He calls you to do is grow in your love for Him. And as you grow in your love for him, your actions, your motives for what you do will begin to change. Obedience follows love.*

Summary:

- What does it mean to Abide in Jesus?
- Vine = Israel, not bearing fruit, Jesus doing what Israel has not done
- As a Christian you can expect pruning, pruning = blessing,
- To be a Christian is to bear fruit
- How do you define fruit? What is fruit?
- Our position is in His presence, nothing can separate you from Him
- We're given the power to love, love drives obedience