



## *Abiding in the Father's Love*

June 2018

Dr. Mary Craig

*"Even as the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: abide in my love. If [whenever] ye keep my*

*commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love."*—John 15:9, 10.

Jesus said, "*Abide in me,*" and also, "*Abide in my love.*" Andrew Murray has written so many helpful insights into this abiding. This is a just a taste; I hope you read his writings. I am sharing just some of those insights while adding some of my own. For the full sermon, given on Father's Day (U.S.A.), go to [www.mcmtffr.org](http://www.mcmtffr.org) where we archive teachings and handouts and such, all free.

The main part of abiding in Christ is entering into and dwelling and being rooted in the love with which He loves us. Jesus said to His disciples that He called them friends and that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friend. He laid down His life at the Cross and gives Himself to us.

*"Love seeks not its own;"* it always goes out of itself to live and be at one with the beloved; it ever opens itself and stretches its arms wide to receive and hold fast the object of its desire. The Father loves Jesus Christ, His Son. Even as, in the same way, with the same quality and quantity of love that the Father has for the Son, so also the disciple is to love as an abiding dwelling place. Christ's love holds us fast. *"I am my Beloved's, and His desire is for me."*

**Abiding in Christ is an intensely personal relationship**, the losing of ourselves in the fellowship of an Infinite Love. We find our life in the experience of being loved by Him, being nowhere at home but in His love.

The love of the Father for His Son provided strength in prospect of death. At His baptism the Voice was heard, the Spirit descended, *"This is my BELOVED Son, in whom I am well pleased."* More than once we read: *"The Father loves the Son"* (John 3:35; 5:20). Christ speaks of dwelling in the love of His Father, of the oneness which He desires for those in Him. It is His highest blessedness: *"That the world may know that You have loved them, even as You had loved me; Thou loved me before the foundation of the world;" "That the love wherewith You loved me may be in them."* Listen to John 17:3, 14, 17, 19, 21-24.

Jesus lived in the light of the glory of the Father's love shining on Him. It was as THE BELOVED OF GOD that He was able to do God's will, and finish His work. He dwelt in the love of the Father.

True believers are THE BELOVED OF JESUS. EVEN AS the Father loved Him, He loves us. *If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.* John 14:23

Andrew Murray says, “And what we need is just to take time, and, shutting our eyes to all around us, to worship and to wait until we see the Infinite Love of God in all its power and glory streaming forth upon us through the heart of Jesus, seeking to make itself known, and to get complete possession of us, offering itself to us as our home and resting-place.”

**The way to our abiding in Christ is the same as with Jesus abiding in the Father’s love.** As Son, Christ was in the Father’s love when He came into the world. Keeping His Father’s commandments through obedience secured its continued enjoyment. This obedience was costly. Jesus learned obedience through the things which He suffered, the things which He experienced. Jesus became obedient unto the death, even the death of the cross. He kept the Father’s commandments and *abode in the Father’s love*. **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life. This commandment have I received of my Father."** John 10: 17, 18.

**"The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him."** John 8:29.

Jesus gives us Himself as the example and demonstrates how **the path of obedience pleases the Father**. It is the keeping of the commandments of Jesus that **takes us up into the presence and love and glory of God**. Thus Jesus says, **"If [whenever] you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love, EVEN AS I kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love."** John 15:10.

**The result of Christ-like obedience is joy**, enjoying the love of God for us, enjoying God being glorified, enjoying **boldness of access into God’s presence**. John 15:11. The commandment is to love one another as Christ has loved us. John 15:12.

We are branches of the Vine. We are to bear much fruit, which may take pruning in order to achieve such fruitfulness. Abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in us is the key to bringing forth much fruit for apart from Him we can do absolutely nothing. We are to abide in Jesus’ words, which are the words of the Father by which we are sanctified. As we obey the commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us, as we keep the commandments of Jesus, we abide in the Father’s love. This brings joy. We have not chosen Christ, but He has chosen the elect, and ordained/appointed His disciples to go and bring forth fruit, and that this fruit should remain in order that whatever we shall ask of the Father in Jesus’ Name, the Father may give it to us. (John 15)

**"Let us love in deed and in truth, hereby shall we assure our hearts before Him." "Beloved! if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence towards God; and whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."** 1 John 3:18-21.

It gives us **boldness before men, confidence before God, and lifts us above the approval or contempt of men**, because we move at God’s bidding, and feel that we have but to obey orders. It gives us **boldness in the face of difficulty or danger** when we are doing God’s will, and leave the results to Him. So we measure success by our obedience.

Andrew Murray says: “The heart filled with the thought of direct and entire obedience to God alone, rises above the world into the will of God, into the place where God’s love rests on him: like Christ, he has his abode in the love of God.”

The Spirit of the Son is the spirit of obedience ruling our life. It implies the spirit of dependence; the confession that we have neither the right nor the desire in anything to do our own will. It

involves being teachable. It involves being conscious of what can blind, what can bind, what can allure us into drifting, doubting, disbelief, disobedience, and death. It involves the Holy Spirit, being led by the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, keeping in step with the Spirit, being ruled/governed by the Holy Spirit. Inasmuch as the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and the Witness who testifies of Jesus Christ, it involves loving truth, conforming to it, and a willingness to be transformed by the grace and power of God. It involves hearkening to the living Voice of the LORD heard speaking through the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is living and active. The Word of God is Truth. It involves keeping our eyes and ears open, having our little antennas up to do the will of the Father with the mind of Christ and the heart of the Holy Spirit.

We come deeper into the love of God as we obey the will of God. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love."

We attain this abiding, not by focusing on ourselves, but by focusing the attention of our thoughts and study of God's Word on Jesus Christ. John 17:3. Like Christ we will learn *obedience* in the school of the Holy Spirit. Jesus moved from obedience to obedience, culminating in His death on the Cross and experiencing forsakenness, something He had never known. We move mostly from disobedience to obedience, but as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, we may begin moving more from obedience to obedience and suffer for doing what's right. To believers Paul says:

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the **sons of disobedience**—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved... (Ephesians 2:1-5 ESV)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. (Colossians 3:5-7 ESV)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36 ESV)

Jesus' entire dependence and continual waiting on the Father was the root of implicit obedience. Obedience brings blessing. As we yield ourselves before the LORD, desiring to be obedient and putting off attitudes and desires of disobedience, desiring to be lawful and not lawless, we discover the Love of God. That love accepts us in Christ as we grow and share in the oneness of the Godhead with all humility. We abide in the Father's love as our hearts are filled with that love. In experiencing that love we love others, keeping Jesus' commandments in faith believing.

Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:14-21 that the Father would grant to the believer, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Prayer changes things. I pray that you join me in praying Paul's prayer provided in God's Word.

Bibliography: [https://www.worldinvisible.com/library/murray/like\\_christ/1c27.htm](https://www.worldinvisible.com/library/murray/like_christ/1c27.htm)

Just the Messenger,

*Mary Craig*

Mary Craig, D. Min.

That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith;

That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able

To comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge,

That you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

© 2018 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.



P.S. Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org). Go to [marycraig.org](http://marycraig.org) for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Grow and flourish in small group ministry at Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, located in the Pompano Plaza at 114 E. Mc Nab Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. Log on to [www.craighthouse.org](http://www.craighthouse.org) for a map, current events, and Bible studies. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org) and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment" radio ministry; or go to [www.mcmtffr.org](http://www.mcmtffr.org) for audio sermons and teachings and Friday night handout sheets. Free. Go to [www.marycraigverses.org](http://www.marycraigverses.org) for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to [www.marycraig.smugmug.com](http://www.marycraig.smugmug.com) for some pictures of MCM world missions. Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a 501© (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.