

# MEN'S RETREAT

## ROUGH ACRES RANCH



“Abide in me, and I will abide in you. Just as the branch cannot produce fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.”

John 15:4



MEN'S RETREAT

**THE PRUNING**

**JOHN 15:1-4 “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I will abide in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you abide in me.**



# The Father's Process

1. Cutting away the unhealthy
2. Pruning the healthy

# The Father's Process

Hebrews 12:10 But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.



**“Because grape wood that is more than two years old will no longer produce fruit, you have to prune in such a way that you have replenishing vines growing that can replace the older wood.”**  
**(Gardener’s Secret Handbook, McGroarty)**

# The Father's Process

*GOD CUTS AWAY THE UNHEALTHY  
THINGS IN OUR LIVES TO MAKE  
ROOM FOR THE HEALTHY.*



# The Father's Process

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening —it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.



**“In most cases proper grape vine pruning requires that you remove as much as 75% of the vegetative growth so the plant can properly develop and ripen the fruit it produces.”**

**(Gardener’s Secret Handbook, McGroarty)**







# The Father's Process

*THE PROBLEM IS WE WANT TO  
EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF  
FRUIT-BEARING WITHOUT GOING  
THROUGH THE PRUNING.*











**JOHN 15:5-8** “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.



# OUR PARTICIPATION

1. Remaining (or abiding)
2. Producing fruit



# OUR PARTICIPATION

**REMAIN “menō”**: to dwell in, to  
maintain unbroken fellowship with



# OUR PARTICIPATION

*ABIDING IN CHRIST IS NOT SOME  
SPECIAL LEVEL OF THE CHRISTIAN  
EXPERIENCE IT IS THE ONLY  
POSITION FOR A TRUE BELIEVER.*



# OUR PARTICIPATION

Psalm 63:1 "O God, you are my God;  
earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for  
you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry  
and weary land where there is no water."



**To abide in Christ means to keep up a habit of constant close communion with Him--to be always leaning on Him, resting on Him, pouring out our hearts to Him, and using Him as our Fountain of life and strength, as our chief Companion and best Friend. - J.C. Ryle**

# OUR PARTICIPATION

*Vs. 5 ...For apart from me you can do nothing.*

*WE CANNOT BRING GLORY TO GOD  
UNLESS WE ARE IN CLOSE  
FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS.*



# OUR PARTICIPATION

*Vs. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you...*

*BEING IMMERSED IN GOD'S WORD IS  
THE KEY TO LIVING A LIFE THAT  
BEARS FRUIT.*

# OUR PARTICIPATION

1 John 2:5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.





**JOHN 15:9-12** “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

**<sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!**

**<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**

# LIFE-ALTERING RESULTS

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1. Love
  2. Joy



# LIFE-ALTERING RESULTS

*Vs. 10 When you obey my commandments,  
you remain in my love*

*YOUR LOVE FOR GOD IS DISPLAYED  
IN YOUR OBEDIENCE TOWARD HIM.*

**“We are sent out into the world to love one another. Sometimes we live as if we were sent into the world to compete with one another.”**

**—William Barclay**



# LIFE-ALTERING RESULTS

*Vs. 11 ...you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*

*JOY IS A BYPRODUCT OF ALLOWING GOD'S  
LOVE TO FLOW THROUGH YOUR LIFE*

# LIFE-ALTERING RESULTS

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ  
that surpasses knowledge, that you may  
be filled with all the fullness of God.



**Some think it is quite sufficient if they avoid what Jesus forbids. Abstinence from evil is a great part of righteousness, but it is not enough for friendship.”**

**—C. H. Spurgeon**



#THEDUDEABIDES

#ABIDEINCHRIST