

Evidences of Abiding in Christ

Introduction:

1. To abide with Christ in Heaven, one must first abide in Him here.
 2. John teaches us that we can know that we are in Him (1 John 2:5).
 3. What are the evidences of abiding in Christ?
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- I. Keeping God's Commandments (1 John 3:19-24)
 - A. Knowledge of obedience is stronger than any feeling.
 - B. To keep His commandments is to do those things that please Him.
 1. Believe the authority of Jesus
 2. Love one another
 - C. Notice the connection between the commands and the Spirit.
 - II. Walking as Christ Walked (1 John 2:3-6)
 - A. We tend to imitate those with whom we are closest.
 - B. As Christians, abiding in Christ means we strive to imitate Him (cf. 1:7; Matthew 11:28-30; John 13:15; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21).
 - III. Not Practicing Sin (1 John 3:1-9)
 - A. The hope of eternal life motivates us to purify ourselves.
 - B. This means removing the habitual practice of sin from our lives.
 - C. Daily, we strive to stop transgressing the law of God.
 - D. If we allow God's word to remain in our hearts, we cannot allow sinful practices to dominate our lives.
 - IV. Loving One Another (1 John 4:7-16)
 - A. We must love one another, because God is love.
 - B. By loving one another, we make the invisible God seen in the world.
 - C. By living lives of this kind of love, we continue to confess Christ.
 - V. Bearing Fruit (John 15:1-8)
 - A. Those who abide in Christ bring forth much fruit.
 - B. If we do not bear fruit, we risk being cut off forever.
 - VI. Remaining Faithful to God's Word (1 John 2:21-25; 2 John 9)
 - A. God's truth can be known.
 - B. By abiding in it, we also abide in the Father and the Son.
 - C. Thus, we have God's faithful promise – eternal life.

Conclusion: *Is there enough evidence in your life to convict you of abiding in Christ?*