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Abiding in the Trinity

1 John 2:24-27

Series: Blessed Assurance (Communion Series)

The Village Church

October 6, 2024

I. Introduction

- A. Are you a Christian?
 - 1. How many of you would say you are a Christian?
- B. The interesting thing is that pretty much no one in the New Testament says they are “a Christian”
 - 1. The word “Christian” is only used three times in the entire New Testament
 - 2. And it appears that in two of those three times, the term “Christian” is a pejorative term – a term of derision
- C. **Acts 11:26** (ESV) —
 - 1. 26 ... And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
 - 2. And it seems that in this passage it is used by other people about the followers of Jesus who had founded a church in Antioch
 - a. “Who are those strange people who are hanging around so-and-so’s house?”
 - b. “Oh, they are those ‘Christians.’”
- D. **Acts 26:28** (ESV) —
 - 1. 28 And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”
 - 2. It’s obvious that Agrippa has no fondness for this odd sect of Judaism
- E. The only more positive reference is by Peter
 - 1. **1 Peter 4:16** (ESV) —
 - a. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
 - 2. And even then, the context indicates that the suffering may involved persecution by others for being a follower of Jesus
 - a. Or a “Christian”
- F. On the other hand, the term that the New Testament writers use to describe followers of Jesus is not a term at all
 - 1. It’s a phrase
 - a. It’s the phrase “in Christ”
 - 2. And it’s used dozens of times!
- G. **2 Corinthians 12:2** (ESV) —
 - 1. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.
 - 2. He doesn’t say, “I know a Christian”

- a. He says, “I know a man ‘in Christ’”
 - 3. Turns out that the guy he’s referring to is Paul himself
 - a. So Paul refers to himself, not as a Christian
 - b. But as one who is “in Christ”
- H. **Romans 16:7** (ESV) —
 - 1. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners.
 - a. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.
 - 2. Not that they were “Christians” before Paul
 - a. But that they were “in Christ” before Paul himself was “in Christ”
- I. **2 Corinthians 5:17** (ESV) —
 - 1. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - 2. Not, “if anyone is a Christian, he is a new creation”
 - 3. No – “if anyone is ‘in Christ’ he is a new creation”
- J. This phrase, of course, is technically a prepositional phrase
 - 1. ‘In’ is the preposition
 - a. Prepositions are words used to specify relationships
 - 2. In this case, there is a sense of union
 - a. A spiritual bond that holds two beings together
 - b. A bond that identifies one with the other
 - 3. That spiritual union is what we have been majoring in lately in our study of Romans
 - a. The Gospel of Jesus transforms us because it unites us with Jesus Christ
 - b. And the agent of this union is the Holy Spirit
 - c. Who is called in Romans “The Spirit of Christ”
 - d. The Spirit of Christ, or the Holy Spirit, is said to indwell believers in Jesus
 - e. Giving us new life
 - f. And enabling us to live the life of Christ by God’s power and strength
- K. The great passage in Ephesians 1 testifies to the significance of being so united with Christ, of being “in Christ”
 - 1. “In Christ” or “in him” or “in the beloved” is used at least 9 times to specify the blessedness of belonging to the Savior
 - a. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ
 - b. We are chosen before the foundation of the world in Christ
 - c. We are blessed with the glorious grace of God in Christ
 - d. We have redemption in Christ
 - e. We will see all things united to Christ in Christ
 - f. We have obtained an inheritance in Christ
 - g. We have hoped in Christ so that we would be to the praise of his glory
 - h. We were sealed with the Holy Spirit in Christ

- L. It wasn't only in Romans that we learned of this relationship with our Savior
1. When we studied the Gospel of John we spent quite a bit of time on it
 - a. For when we studied John 15 we learned a new sense of our relationship with Christ
 - b. It was called "abiding in Christ"
 2. **John 15:4–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 4 **Abide** in me, and I in you.
 - b. 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. Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not **abide** in me he is thrown away like 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 wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 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.
 3. There's a lot of abiding going on there!
 - a. Abiding means "to remain"
 - b. But it also carries the idea of a living relationship, in which a home or household – abode – is shared by those who are united as a family
 4. There is abiding in Christ
 - a. And Christ abiding in us
 - b. And the word of Christ abiding in us
 - c. And abiding in the love of Christ
 - d. And Christ abiding in the Father's love
- M. Not surprisingly, John in his first epistle picks up all of these themes
1. And the idea of abiding in Christ dominates the entire passage
 - a. In fact, it's more than abiding in Christ
 - b. It's abiding in His Word
 - c. It's abiding in the Spirit
 - d. It's even abiding in the Father
 2. In other words, it's about abiding in the Triune God – abiding in the Trinity
- N. **1 John 2:24–27** (ESV) —
1. 24 **Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.**
 2. 25 **And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.**
 3. 26 **I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.**
 4. 27 **But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.**

5. **But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.**

II. **The Tests of Assurance**

- A. On communion Sundays we have been exploring 1 John in a series entitled Blessed Assurance
 1. Now assurance is only blessed if it doesn't give a false sense of assurance
 2. You might recall that there are four possibilities with respect to assurance of salvation
 - a. You may be saved, and not be assured of your salvation
 - b. You may not be saved, and be assured that you're not saved
 - c. You may not be saved, but believe that you're saved
 - d. And you may be saved, and be assured of your salvation
 3. That last condition is the preferable one
 - a. That you are truly saved, and that you're sure you're saved
 - b. And that is what John wants to establish in this epistle
 4. **1 John 5:13** (ESV) —
 - a. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.
 5. The worst possible condition is to not be truly saved, but actually believe you are saved
 - a. In this case, you would have a false sense of assurance
 6. The last thing John wants is for you to have a false sense of assurance
 - a. But his overall objective is to make sure you trust Jesus as your Savior
 - b. And that you are confidently assured that you belong to Him
 7. To do that, John provides us with a number of tests
 - a. Tests that help us to discern where we stand with the Savior
- B. **The Test of Obedience**
 1. **1 John 2:3** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.
 2. **1 John 2:5–6** (ESV) —
 - a. 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:
 - b. 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
 3. So we are confirmed that we belong to the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ by obeying the commands of Christ
 - a. And by golly – there's the issue of abiding in Christ
 - b. Those who abide in Christ, do indeed obey Christ
 - c. Not perfectly – but the pattern and conduct of life for the believer is demonstrably different for the believer
- C. **The Test of Love**
 1. **1 John 2:9–10** (ESV) —

- a. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.
- b. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
- 2. So love for the brothers and sisters is evidence that we belong to the family of God
 - a. That's right – we love all who are in the family, warts and all!
 - b. That's because Jesus loves everyone in His family!
- 3. Of course, there is plenty of the scriptures about loving more than our own family
 - a. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves
- 4. But Jesus was clear about the significance of loving the brothers and sisters in Christ
- 5. **John 13:34–35** (ESV) —
 - a. 34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
 - b. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- 6. So you affirm to the world that you are disciples of Jesus, followers of Jesus, by loving the church!
 - a. And here in 1 John it is a test for our own assurance of salvation
- D. **The Test of Truth**
 - 1. Finally, there is the test of truth – a doctrinal test
 - a. And the primary doctrine that is critical is that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of the Father
 - 2. **1 John 2:22–23** (ESV) —
 - a. 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.
 - b. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
 - 3. So to reject Jesus as the Son of God is a flat out indictment that one doesn't belong to the family of God
 - a. And to receive Jesus as the Son of the Father is a critical piece of evidence affirming that belong to Christ
- E. Well, there is one additional test that brings assurance of our salvation
 - 1. That's the test of abiding
 - a. Of remaining with Christ
 - b. Of sharing in the Spirit of Christ
 - c. Of enjoying the continuing presence of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

III. **The Test of Abiding**

A. **Abiding in the Word**

- 1. **1 John 2:24** (ESV) —
 - a. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.

- b. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 2. What you heard from the beginning is the word of God – the word of Christ
 - a. Ever since they were with Jesus, Jesus taught them
 - b. Yes, He did miracles; yes, He healed people; yes, He cast out demons
 - c. But His primary occupation was preaching and teaching
- 3. Even after some wonderful successes – successes that were generating many followers, Jesus insisted on going on to the next place and teaching
- 4. **Mark 1:38** (ESV) —
 - a. 38 And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, **for that is why I came out.**”
- 5. His ministry was noted for its authority – as clearly different from the Jewish religious leaders
- 6. **Mark 1:22** (ESV) —
 - a. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.
- 7. This was the diet the disciples were being fed ever since they were with Jesus
 - a. And that was 24-7
 - b. They didn’t just take a class from the rabbi
 - c. They lived with the rabbi, ate with the rabbi, slept where the rabbi slept
 - d. Can you imagine the table-talk as they shared life with Jesus
 - e. This was abiding with Jesus, which meant abiding in His word
- 8. And there are wonderful promises associated with abiding in the word of Christ
- 9. One is answered prayer
- 10. **John 15:7** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 11. That seems like carte-blanche, doesn’t it?
 - a. Ask Jesus anything!
- 12. But remember, if you *abide* in His word – I mean really abide – you will be transformed
 - a. Transformed by the renewing of your mind as Paul says in Romans 12
 - b. And in that transformation, Jesus’ values become your values
 - c. The mind of Christ will transform the minds of Bob, and Julie, and Kate, and George, and whoever abides in His word
- 13. Another promise associated with abiding in the word of Christ is knowledge and the freedom that comes with knowledge of the truth
- 14. **John 8:31–32** (ESV) —

- a. 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
 - b. 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- 15. So how will you abide in the word of Christ?
 - a. Well, you’re doing it right now, in attending the preaching of the word
- 16. Biblically, hearing the preaching of the word of Christ is the central means of abiding in the word of Christ
 - a. That’s when someone gifted in understanding and communicating the word of Christ proclaims the truth about God using the scriptures
 - b. For after all, Jesus Himself used the scriptures as He taught
 - c. Even as the scriptures pointed to the Messiah Himself!
- 17. Remember the time after Jesus was raised from the dead, and He was walking on the Road to Emmaus with a couple of disciples
 - a. How He opened the scriptures – the Old Testament, the Hebrew scriptures – and showed them how the scriptures pointed to the person who was crucified, buried and raised from the dead!
 - b. And how their hearts burned within them as they heard the scriptures proclaimed
 - c. They were abiding in the word of Christ in those moments
- 18. Are your hearts burning within you hear the word of Christ proclaimed from this pulpit?
 - a. That’s not saying anything about me, and me ability or lack thereof in communicating the word
 - b. That’s simply recognizing that those who stand at this pulpit, me, Pastor Don, Garth, Jim Clark – and any of the other excellent church members who preach from time to time
 - c. They all are committed to authoritatively proclaiming the word of Christ
- 19. And if your hearts aren’t burning when you hear it – what’s wrong with you?
 - a. Do you realize what’s happening?
- 20. And of course that happens, not just on Sunday morning, but on Sunday evening as well
 - a. You can double your abiding in the word of Christ if you come back on Sunday nights!
- 21. And if you miss it, you can see the replays on SPTV Channel 13
 - a. Or watch it on the web page on the Media link
- 22. And there are many other times and places you can abide in the word of Christ
 - a. Study with the Pastor does it – when we all study together the same passage of scripture
 - b. And over time learn the entire Old and New Testaments
 - c. And the Bible studies and small groups

23. Opportunities abound for abiding in the word of Christ

B. **Abiding in the Son**

1. And if you abide in the word of Christ, you will abide in Christ Himself
 - a. Your relationship with Him will grow
 - b. You will find that you can't do anything without thinking about Christ
 - c. You will constantly find yourself thinking the thoughts of Christ when you encounter challenging situations
 - d. You will find yourself growing in your confidence in Jesus Christ
2. **1 John 2:24** (ESV) —
 - a. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.
 - b. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son ...
3. And not only that, you will find the Son abiding in you!
4. **John 15:3–4** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.
 - b. 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. Isn't that an extraordinary thought?
 - a. How amazing is that?
 - b. He wants to hang with you even more than you want to hang with Him!
6. And as you abide in Christ, and as He abides in you – here's another promise
 - a. Your life will bear fruit!
 - b. Just like abiding in a vine produces fruit
 - c. Your life will exude the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control
 - d. And your life will bear spiritual fruit for others as your spiritual gifts encourage, comfort, admonish, and strengthen your brothers and sisters
7. And abiding in the Son, through abiding in His word, all work as evidences that we belong to the family of God

C. **Abiding in the Father**

1. **1 John 2:24** (ESV) —
 - a. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.
 - b. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son *and in the Father*.
2. Yes, the Father Himself is central to our abiding
 - a. As we abide in the word of Christ
 - b. We abide with Christ Himself
 - c. But we get the Father as well as the Son!

3. We saw that in our last message in this series
4. **1 John 2:23** (ESV) —
 - a. 23 ... Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
5. And Jesus intimated as much also in John's Gospel
6. **John 15:9–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
 - b. 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.
7. So Jesus Himself abides in the Father's love
 - a. But now John says you get to abide in the love of the Father also
8. **1 John 2:24** (ESV) —
 - a. 24 ... If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
9. We only know the Father through the Son
 - a. Philip had to learn that lesson the hard way when he asked Jesus to show them the Father
 - b. Jesus said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father"
10. So you get to dwell with the Son, and the Father – as you abide in the word of Christ

D. **Abiding in the Holy Spirit**

1. And then there is abiding in the Holy Spirit
 - a. Yes, He's there in the passage as well
 - b. Abiding in the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ
 - c. The One who indwells you!
2. **1 John 2:27** (ESV) —
 - a. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you.
 - b. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.
3. So, where's the Holy Spirit in this passage?
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the anointing you received
4. **1 John 2:20** (ESV) —
 - a. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
5. Now let me clarify something
 - a. When the text says "you have no need that anyone should teach you"
 - b. And "his anointing teaches you about everything"
 - c. That doesn't mean that there shouldn't be teachers in the church
 - d. The Spirit Himself has gifted teachers according to passages like 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4
6. It just means that now everyone who is a genuine believer in Jesus, who has the Holy Spirit dwelling in you

- a. Now has the resources to read, study and hear the word – it will
bake sense to you
- b. You will recognize its truth
- c. You will resonate with its message
- d. You will be convinced of its obligations
- e. You will be inclined to obey its imperatives
- 7. And as the Spirit illuminates the word of Christ to you, you will be abiding
in the Spirit
 - a. Even as He abides in you
- 8. And you will be increasingly responsive to His call on your life
 - a. You will increasingly hear His voice speaking to your heart
 - b. Your affections for Christ and for your brothers and sisters will
increase
- 9. All because the Spirit of Christ dwells in you, abides in you
 - a. And as you abide in the Holy Spirit
- E. So the fourth element of evidence for your belonging to the family of God is
abiding
 - 1. Abiding in the word of Christ
 - 2. Abiding in Christ Himself
 - 3. Abiding in the Father
 - 4. And abiding in the Holy Spirit
 - 5. In other words – abiding in the Triune God who lives

IV. **Abiding and the Means of Grace**

- A. God has provided everything we need to do this abiding
 - 1. He has saved us through the finished work of Jesus on the cross
 - 2. He has quickened our spirits with the regenerating work of the Spirit of
God who brings new life in us
 - 3. And He has given the means of grace to experience this abiding
- B. And the Lord's Supper is the chief means of grace
 - 1. The means by which we abide in the Trinity
- C. The supper we will share in the body of Christ is just one more dimension of our
abiding in Him
 - 1. That's why we're taught in scripture to participate in communion "as often
as you might"
- D. Let's prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Triune God – Father, Son and
Holy Spirit – in these moments of anticipation