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Christian Responsibility  
John 15:1-16

INTRO: Every child of God has responsibilities. Several of those responsibilities are set before us in this passage. We have a responsibility to:

1. To abide in Christ. This is true fellowship (vs 7).
2. To pray+ There can be no fellowship without prayer (vs 7b)
3. To bear fruit+ spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22-23). This leads to fruit of souls won (vs 8).
4. To love and to keep on loving (vss 9-10, 12).
5. To do whatever Christ commands us to do (vs 14).

1) VS 7, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ABIDING

- a) The child of God is to abide in Christ. This is brought out in vss 4, 5, 7, 10.
  - i) You cannot abide in Christ until you are first “in Christ.”
    - (1) Those who are “in Christ” are new creatures (II Cor 5:17).
    - (2) Those who are “in Christ” have looked to Him as the author and finisher of their faith (Heb 12:2).
  - ii) Abiding in Christ is to draw strength from Him day by day, truly realizing that, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”; and that without Him, I can do nothing of the kingdom.
- b) “And my words abide in you.”
  - i) The words of Christ must abide in us. They must be alive to us. They must regulate our lives.
  - ii) For the words to abide, they must constantly control our path. Every precept must be important. We can’t pick and chose what we want to take and what we want to ignore.
- c) “Ye shall ask what ye will”-- You cannot ask what ye will and it be given unless you are saved and you are constantly in communion with Christ, controlled by His words not by your imagination (II Cor 10:4-5). When this is the case, we will not ask amiss; we will ask according to His will (I John 5:14).

2) VS 8, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEARING FRUIT

- a) Fruit is evidence of life within. False fruit is stuck on dead branches, looking real but lifeless.
  - i) Spiritual fruit is the outflow of our being in Christ, of our union with Him.
    - (1) Fruit comes from Christ working in us (Gal 2:8).
    - (2) Fruit comes from Christ living in us (Gal 2:20).
  - ii) This fruit is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 2:23-24). True fruit will be seen as Christ like

actions and affections.

- iii) Christian fruit adorns the abiding child of God.
  - b) God is glorified when we are adorned with Christ likeness, not worldliness.
  - c) Disciples indeed are those who continue in the word (8:31).
- 3) VSS 9-10, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTINUING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST
- a) Vs 9, Think of it! Loved as the Father loves His Son! (Mt 3:17).
    - i) The Father has loved the Son from eternity, so has Christ loved us (Jer 31:3, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love...") (note 13:1).
    - ii) We are exhorted to continue, to abide in, His love.
    - iii) To continue in His love is to rest in it. It is to lean on Jesus breast as did John. To have our eyes and thoughts on Him.
  - b) Vs 10, We cannot abide in His love if we are disobedient children. His love for us never wavers; it is our love of Him that falters. Fellowship is broken by disobedience, but never relationship.
    - i) Jesus kept call of the Father's commandments and abides in His love (8:29).
    - ii) "It is only in the path of obedience that He will have fellowship with us. Alas, how many err on this point.... In many a place even professing Christians will no longer tolerate the word 'commandments,'" (Pink 15).
- 4) VSS 11-12, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER
- a) Vs 11, "These things," verses 1-10.
    - i) Abiding brings joy.
    - ii) Prayer brings joy.
    - iii) A life of spiritual fruit brings joy.
    - iv) A life of love brings joy.
    - v) Philippians 4:4 tells us about our joy in Christ: "Rejoice in the Lord always..."
  - b) Vs 12, Christ is our example. As He loves us, we need to love each other.
    - i) His love is a sacrificial love; ours need to be.
    - ii) "It is only when we abide in Christ+ in his words, in his love+ that we shall be able to keep on loving one another!" (Hendriksen 305).
- 5) VS 13-15, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DOING WHAT IS COMMANDED
- a) Vs 13, He loved us when we were unlovely, when we were weak and ungodly sinners (Rom 5:6-10).
    - i) Christ laid down His life for His friends, made friends because of His love for them.
    - ii) Friends because He had chosen them out of the world. "We love him because He first loved us."
  - b) Vs 14, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." The words, "If ye do whatsoever I command you," are words of responsibility. To be the friend of Jesus is to love Him and do what He says.
  - c) Vs 15, "Servants"-- they were, but He would no longer call them "servants." He would call them "friends." Friends who would know the thoughts of the Father as they were revealed by the Spirit.
    - i) These friends are the blood bought.

- ii) Our obedience is to be an expression of our love. A slave does what he is told to do. A bond slave out of love serves and obeys.
- 6) VS 16, RESPONSIBILITY THAT GROWS OUT OF CHOICE
- a) "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...."
    - i) This is divine initiative+ "Salvation is of the Lord."
    - ii) This is divine election (Eph 1:4).
  - b) "That ye should go and bring forth fruit...."
    - i) Spiritual fruit is again in view (Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9).
    - ii) Prov 11:30 is also in view.
  - c) The thought of John 15:7 recurs, and the principles involved. These are also involved here.

**CONCLUSION:** In a world with a lack discipline, we need to see and fulfill our Christian responsibility.