



**Abiding =
Becoming**



Rediscovering a Promise

- What is the most important characteristic of becoming a maker of disciples?
- You have to BE a disciple.
- What is the most important characteristic of a disciple of Jesus?
- Someone who loves like Jesus loves
- How do we become people who love like Jesus loves?



Hope in This Promise

- By abiding in the love of Jesus and experiencing what it means and feels like to perfectly preciously loved by Him: “9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.” John 15:9
- How do we abide in that kind of amazing, unbelievable love?
- Until we are able to consistently abide in his love, our attempts to make disciples will be based on do better try harder instead of flowing out of a heart of his love in us!



We Become Where We Abide

- **Abide in My love**
- **Be immersed in My Love**
- **Draw your life from My Love**
- **My Love will become the source of your life**
- **And now it gets interesting**
- **Remember, GOD is LOVE**
- **Ephesians 3:19 says that as we begin to understand His love, we will be filled up with whatever fills God, which is ...**



Filled with Divine Life - Love

- **God's love is not just something we receive to make us feel special**
- **God's love is something we BECOME**
- **HIS PLAN, OUR DESTINY, IS TO BECOME THE LOVE OF GOD WALKING AROUND ON EARTH**
- **As much as we study and practice, we can't make that happen,**
- **but His love in us, as the Holy Spirit lives in us and loves us just like the Father does with the Son**



What If Being a Believer ...?

- Not really about getting people to pray the right prayer so they wouldn't go to Hell and would join our church
- Not really about changing their lifestyles so they wouldn't make us so uncomfortable, or hurt themselves and others
- Not really about getting their theology and doctrine straight so they agree with us
- Not really so much about convincing other people to do any of that do better try harder stuff



What If It Was About Love ...

- Galatians 5:⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight—the only thing that matters is faith working through love. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight—the only thing that matters is faith working through love.
- 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, **but through love serve one another.** 14 For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, “You must love your neighbor as yourself.”



This Is Definitely Not Is About

- Not Do Better Try Harder
- It flows from simply abiding in His love as the Holy Spirit abides in us: Gal 5:22
- But the fruit of the **Spirit** is **LOVE**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.
- Not Something we go out and do because we SHOULD, it is something we become as we we receive and live in what the Spirit has already stored up there. His Desire.



Good News, YOU ARE

- **deeply loved by God,**
- **fully accepted by God,**
- **completely and permanently forgiven by God,**
- **lavishly blessed by God,**
- **and eternally, perfectly embraced by God**
as his child; a child who brings Him
unspeakable JOY