

Living in a Rich Neighborhood

John 15:1-11 HCSB "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. 2 Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. 6 If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. 10 If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love. 11 "I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

INTRODUCTION: Today I'd like to take up the role of a realtor and sell you some properties in a rich neighborhood. The word "abide" means to take up residence. Where are the best addresses?

1. In the Father's love.

- John 15:9-10 HCSB "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. 10 If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.

2. In the protective shadow of the Almighty.

- Psalms 91:1 HCSB The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.

3. Connected to the Vine.

- John 15:4 HCSB Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

4. Among the wise.

- Proverbs 15:31 HCSB An ear that listens to life-giving rebukes will be at home among the wise.

5. Firmly in the Word.

- John 8:31 HCSB So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples.

6. In the Master's teaching.

- 2 John 1:9 HCSB Anyone who does not remain in the teaching about Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son.

7. In the land of light.

- 1 John 2:10 HCSB The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

CONCLUSION: Wouldn't you like to move into these addresses today?