

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 11

### QUESTION 1

- a) This takes us back to something Jesus was saying in verse 2. This time, however, He goes further.
- b) Again, we need to be clear that Jesus is not saying that true Christians can lose their salvation.
- c) All true Christians bear fruit; even if we do need pruning at times! The false branches do not produce fruit.
- d) This refers to those professing to be the true people of God or followers of Jesus; but are neither.
- e) Not all who claim to be God's people actually belong to God.
- f) This verse 6 sets out the consequences of not being in Christ.
- g) Without the life-giving sap of the vine running through the branch it is dead. There is no fruit.
- h) It is of no use and is thrown on the fire. This points to judgement and hell.

### QUESTION 2

- a) The word 'abide' describes something that remains where it is. Abiding in Jesus includes: letting His words remain in us; constantly depending on Him; and delighting in His love.
- b) Note that Jesus emphasises again about His 'words' abiding (i.e. remaining) in the disciples.
- c) Controlled by His words, this directs our prayers requests to His will.
- d) When we abide in Jesus we will want what He wants. Our desire will be what He desires.
- e) Therefore, our prayers will be consistent with His person and will. In answering that prayer God will display His glory (see **14:13**).

### QUESTION 3

- a) John Piper defines bringing glory to God in this way: *“Glorifying means feeling and thinking and acting in ways that reflect his greatness, that make much of God, that gives evidence of the supreme greatness of all his attributes and the all-satisfying beauty of his manifold perfections”*.
- b) As God’s will is carried out in our lives, then He is exalted.
- c) *“The greatest theme in the universe is the glory of God, and to live a life that brings God glory is the believer’s highest privilege and duty”* (John MacArthur).

### QUESTION 4

- a) Do we need to prove we are disciples? Does that not suggest a ‘works-based’ salvation?
- b) Fruitfulness here is not what we do to become disciples. It is not a condition.
- c) However, Jesus is warning against purely a profession of faith. Fruitfulness is the evidence of that new life.
- d) Joined to Him, His life flows through us and fruit is the result.
- e) John Stott wrote: *“I do not hesitate to say that fruitfulness means Christlikeness”*. That Christlike character in our lives comes through the work of the Holy Spirit (see fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22-23**).
- f) *“The Christian is likened to a fruit tree, not a Christmas tree. For the fruit grows on a fruit tree whereas the decorations are only tied on to a Christmas tree”* (Stott).

### QUESTION 5

- a) This verses does not say that our obedience somehow earns His love.
- b) But obedience does prove that our love for Christ is genuine (see **14:15,21,23**).
- c) The standard for the Christian’s obedience is Jesus’ obedience to His Father’s will.
- d) Us keeping His commandments is a reminder that ‘abiding’ is not a passive, but active, thing.
- e) It is also a response to His love in going to the cross for our redemption.
- f) Wallace Benn: *“Remaining in His love’ means basking in the wonderful love of Calvary day in and day out. As Christians we can never safely move far away from the foot of the cross, for there we see the wonder of the love of Christ for us”*.

### QUESTION 6

- a) Obedience is the way of joy.
- b) Jesus’ delighted to do His Father’s will (see **Hebrews 12:2**). Pleasing Him should bring us delight (**Psalms 1:2**)
- c) Joy is not a warm glow when circumstances are in our favour. It is living a fruitful life; abiding in Jesus.