



## Red – Adhe(red): Abiding

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Series Title: Red Letters

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It is the law of decay. Everything ages and wears out...

He has gas he can't go any where, his headlights are on but they are dim, his front tire is flat, his air filter is clogged, his muffler only works part of the time and his radiator leaks.

### [2Corinthians 4:16 CEV](#)

What is my purpose?  
What is the key to living well?  
How do I become complete?  
How do I change?  
What was I made to do?

### [John 15:1-5 NIV](#)

Vine (life source for the branches) = Christ  
Branches (conduits of the vine) = Christ Followers  
Fruit = A thought, attitude or action rooted in Christ  
Vinedresser (caretaker of the branched) = God the Father



**Transformation happens through Jesus and in community**

### [Proverbs 27:17 NIV](#)

That he cuts a way- trims off...every branch that does not bear fruit and that he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they'll produce even more.

**Transformation is often painful, not pleasant**

"The truth will set you free but first it may make you miserable."  
Rick Warren

"When you grasp the eternal consequences of your character development, you'll pray fewer 'comfort me' prayers (help me feel good) and more 'conform me' prayers (use this to make me more like you)  
Rick Warren

"The Vinedresser is never closer than when He is pruning with His own hands."  
Darrell Johnson

**Transformation is not the goal - it's the by-product of the goal. The goal is to abide**

"The business of my life...the only business on my life is to abide in Christ...all else follows."  
E. Stanley Jones

**While God initiates our transformation, the choice to abide is ours**

"What does it matter how much we are doing if what we are doing is not what matters most?"  
Stephen Covey

"Nothing shapes your life more than the commitments you choose to make. Your commitments can develop you or they can destroy you, but either way, they will define you..."  
Rick Warren

"Abide in Me and I in you...apart from Me you can do nothing."  
Jesus

I could not in good conscience tell a friend about a faith that didn't excite me. I couldn't share something I wasn't experiencing. And I wasn't experiencing Christianity. It didn't do anything for me at all. It felt like math, like a system of rights and wrongs and political beliefs, but it wasn't mysterious; it wasn't God reaching out of heaven to do wonderful things in my life. And if I would have shared Christianity with somebody, it would have felt mostly like I was trying to get somebody to agree with me rather than meet God.  
Donald Miller

What is my purpose?  
What is the key to living well?  
How do I become complete?  
How do I change?  
What was I made to do?

"Abide..."

[2Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT](#)