

Are You A True Disciple?

John 8:30-36 ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

❖ Intro

- Important
- Impact it should have

❖ Recap

- 1) We are Enslaved
- 2) Not All Who Believe are True Disciples

❖ Today

- 3) Continuing in the Word of Jesus Means You Are a True Disciple
- 4) Continuing Leads to knowing the Truth
- 5) Knowing the Truth Leads to Freedom
- 6) Jesus is Our Freedom

❖ #3 Continuing in the Word of Jesus Means You Are a True Disciple

- **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,**
- **If You** – A conditional statement...
 - Abide – remain, continue in, live in permanently...
 - Word – the Teaching, and gospel of Jesus..., In His person, who He is...
 - Disciple – A learner, or follower of Jesus
 - He is saying: If you do this.... Then you are a true disciple...
 - We have already made the point that not all who have a belief... are true disciples..
- **First... Let me Tell you that this answers the Friction throughout the Bible**
 - Concerning those who fall away... Concerning those that once claimed to be in the Faith
 - **There is a warning to all who claim the name of Jesus as being a Christian...**
 - Watch yourselves... if you fall away.... Then you will not have eternal life...
 - If you take scripture out of context... and single our verses, instead of using entire Bible...
 - You may think one could look His salvation...
 - **When You Read some verses you may think this... like these:**
 - **Hebrews 3:12 ¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.**
 - ◆ Look closely... there is an unbelieving heart... not truly saved
 - **Hebrews 6:4-8 ⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. ⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.**

- These people are summed up by John:
 - ◆ 1 John 2:19 ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
- There is certainly that warning there... and we should all heed the warning, and never forget
 - ◆ Jesus says himself,
 - ◆ John 16:1 ¹ "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

➤ **Big question.... What does He mean by abide? ...**

- I know the definition... I know what it means, but what does it mean...
- And what does He mean by "His Word"?
- It seemed appropriate to let the rest of the Bible answer this...
 - Particularly John the Apostle... and how He used it throughout His writings...
- 1) You Must Believe
 - John 5:38 ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.
- 2) Continue in Fellowship with Jesus, and Feast on the Word of God
 - John 6:56 ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.
- 3) Bearing True Consistent Fruit Proves our Abiding
 - John 15:4-5 ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- 4) Keeping His Commandments
 - John 15:10 ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- 5) Walking in His Ways
 - 1 John 2:6 ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
- 6) Loving Your Brother... Like Christ Loved
 - 1 John 2:10 ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
- 7) The Basics of the Gospel are Remembered
 - 1 John 2:24 ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 8) Doesn't make sin a practice
 - 1 John 3:6 ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.
- 9) Cares about those in need
 - 1 John 3:17-18 ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- 10) We Have the Holy Spirit Living Within
 - 1 John 4:13 ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 11) Lives out His Confession that Jesus is the Son of God
 - 1 John 4:15 ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 12) Remains Permanently in the Teachings of Christ

- 2 John 9⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

➤ **Summary: Abiding means that Jesus and His way remain precious and important to You**

- Please don't have a low view of precious and important

➤ **What are the opportunities we have to NOT abide in Jesus (His Word)**

- In the Face of Persecution or Embarrassment
- In the Face of Trials
- In the Face of Temptations
- In the Face of our Beliefs

❖ **4) Continuing Leads to Knowing the Truth**

- ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

➤ **Continuing the Conditional statement (IF YOU)**

- If You Abide...
- So If you Remain in Jesus, in His Word...

➤ **You Will Know The Truth**

- You Will Come to Know the Truth

➤ **How Quick do You come to know the Truth**

- There is a certain immediacy to this knowledge
- And there is a certain gradualness to this as well...

➤ **What Kind of Truth?**

- Contextually we are talking about matters of the soul...
- Not Talking about knowing how to:
 - Build a house
 - Replace a heart.... etc

➤ **What is the Truth?**

- Jesus is the Truth....
 - He calls himself the truth in John 14:6
- His Word is Truth
 - John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is Truth"
- Essentially He is saying that You will know Him...
- But on top of that...
 - You will know the truth of all things, by your knowledge of the truth of Jesus

➤ **Why do we need to know this Truth?**

- **Because of all the lies we hear**
- **Because our heart is unreliable at best**
- **Our feelings often are nothing more than whims brought about by circumstances and society**
- **The Truth**

❖ **5) Knowing the Truth Leads to Freedom**

- ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

➤ **Sanctifying Quality of Knowing the Truth ... It leads to our Sanctification....**

- John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is Truth"
- **Sanctify means to be made holy...**
 - We have come to know the truth in this process of being Sanctified....
 - And through the process of Sanctification it leads us to complete freedom...
 - Although at times we do go back to our old master... We certainly do not have to...
 - We have been set free

- And the end result of our Sanctification will be our holiness
- It is through our knowledge of the truth that we will be set free eternally!

➤ **Freedom from what**

- The Destructive End of the Results of Sin
- Ignorance of Sin
- Bondage of Sin

➤ **Practical Applications of this Freedom**

- Set Free from trying to please man
- Set Free from trying to be something you are not
- Set Free from seeking money or fame for self worth
- Set Free from vanishing beauty for self worth
- Set Free from your need for others to affirm you
- Set Free from the lack of peace that comes from not knowing your fate

❖ **6) Jesus is Our Freedom**

- ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

➤ **The Slave- (Remember the Context)**

- ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
- Remember the kind of slave we were... a duolos slave... a bond slave
 - And only death could sever our slavery

➤ **This Slavery is slave to sin....**

- Only a son will remain in the house.... He is a free man...

➤ **To Remain in the House, We can't be a slave....**

- Remember He tells them...
 - Unless they believe that I am He, they will die in their sins...
 - So that is the context, and that is what is at stake...

➤ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed**

➤ **So, 2 Things happen:**

▪ **1) We die**

- 1 Peter 2:24 ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

▪ **2) He Makes us to be sons**

- John 1:12-13 ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 2 Corinthians 6:18 ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

❖ **Invitation**

- Don't you want to be a son or daughter of the King...
- Or do you want to remain a slave
- Where your end results are destruction