



HOW TO KNOW IF YOU'RE A DISCIPLE (The Truth Will Set You Free) John 8:31-38

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church, 09.25.16

John 8:31-38

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed 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 practices 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. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

3 QUESTIONS:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS ENOUGH TO KEEP HIS WORD?

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples..."

A DISCIPLE BELIEVES.

A DISCIPLE ABIDES IN HIS WORD.

Constant listening to his word.

Constant learning from his word. "Disciple" (*mathetes*) "Learner"

Constant living out his word in obedience.

John 14:21; 1 John 2:3-6; Luke 14:27; Mark 8:34-38

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth..."

Ultimately, **Jesus is the Truth**. John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

HAS THE TRUTH SET YOU FREE FROM SLAVERY TO SIN?

"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."

Set free from sin, self, and Satan

Romans 8:1-2; 6:18; 6:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:26



The Truth Will Set You Free John 8:31-38

Discuss:

What is slavery?

Have you ever been enslaved or known someone enslaved?

What is true freedom?

What are the benefits to being truly free?

Abide in the Truth

Many believed in Jesus in response to His claim to be the light of the world. He told them "If you abide in my word [hold to my teachings, NIV] you are truly my disciples" (ESV)

When does a person become a disciple of Christ? (Compare 30, 31)

What is the characteristic of a true follower of Christ according to 31?

"Disciple: means learner, follower. The idea of being a disciple is that he would become like his master (fully-trained). There are different stages of being a disciple: new born babe, growing, and a fully trained disciple (Luke 6:40) Fully trained disciples in the first century were also called "the disciple of the wise," and was expected to go find his own followers and lead them to become like him. (Read 1 Corinthians 11:1)

What does it mean to abide in his Word? See also John 14:21,

What can we say about those who claim to be Christ-followers but do not obey God's word? 1 John 2:3-6

The present tense in the Greek language is vastly important. Abiding and obeying in John and 1 John does not mean that the person does not fail, but as you look at the whole of your

life, if you are obedient to God's word, it is evident that you are a disciple.

Know the Truth

Obedying the truth and knowing the truth are interrelated.

What does Jesus, who is the Truth (John 14:6) say about knowing the truth in John 10:27?

While both the growing and new disciples had Jesus, the Truth with them, how are we exposed to the Truth? (See John 17:17)

The Navigators use the hand illustration to teach five methods of learning from the Bible (LG Leaders, print this out for LG)
https://www.navigators.org/www_navigators_org/media/navigators/tools/Resources/The-Word-Hand.pdf

How are you doing on each of these?

Hear: Hear preaching during worship

Read: Have a Bible reading habit

Study: Study to learn what it means and apply it to your life

Memorize: Memorize Scriptures that help you know God

Meditate: Setting time aside to think, pray, and apply

Experience Freedom from the Truth

What is Christ's promise of freedom? V 32

Why was it important for the Jews to claim being Abraham's children? 33

What does it mean to be enslaved by sin (include addictions)? 34

Who is the One who sets people free? How does He do this? 35-36

On January 1, 1863, as the US faced its third year of a civil war, Abraham Lincoln issued the "Emancipation Proclamation" It declared "all persons held as slaves are and henceforth shall be free."

Tell the group about how God has set you free (your salvation story)

Who do you know that is enslaved in sin (lost) and needs to be set free? Who will tell them about Christ's Emancipation Proclamation?