

**FREE TO BE**

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October 23, 2022

John 8:31-33

1. Jesus commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 28:19
2. He gave those disciples clear guidelines as to His goal related to disciple making.
3. In Luke 14:25-35 Jesus declared that a person who had become a mature disciple would love Him supremely, follow Him fully, and trust Him totally.
4. Here Jesus focused on the process that would produce the above results.
5. For a professed follower of Jesus Christ to become a disciple indeed they must continue in, habitually abide in, His Word.
6. John MacArthur wrote, "A genuine believer holds fast, obeys, and practices Jesus' teaching."
7. In John 1:1-14 we learn that Jesus Christ was the Word, and that the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
8. The Apostle Peter made it clear that the Spirit of Christ is the author of all Scripture. 1 Peter 1:10-12  
As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the **Spirit of Christ within them** was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.  
12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.
9. Modern evangelism methods often fall short when it comes to beginning the discipleship process.
10. Many people have the mistaken notion that they are connected to Christ because they have responded positively to an invitation to pray the "Sinner's Prayer."
11. The Sinner's Prayer has meaning only if it is the outward expression of a genuine, inward work of God upon a person's mind and heart that leads to an act of the will.
12. The grace that saves also sanctifies (sets apart and transforms the life of the person who is an object of God's grace).
13. One writer wrote, "If your faith has not changed your life, then your faith hasn't saved your soul. The faith that saves your soul also changes your life." Chris James, "Open Windows," July 24, 2015
14. With these thoughts in minds let's look at the statement Jesus made in John 8:31-32.

**I. A practice promoted: "If you continue in My Word,"**

A. As already mentioned the Greek word interpreted "continue" means to habitually abide in, rest in, live or sojourn in.

B. That little word “if” is significant because it has to do with a cause and effect.

C. We have a similar use of the word in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

“Therefore, **if** anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature (creation), the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

NOTE: If new things are not evident, then the old things have not passed away.

D. When a person has genuinely come to Christ their life will be characterized by new things, one of which will be their interest in, their continuing in, and their living out the Word of Christ.

## II. A position established. “then you are truly disciples of Mine,”

A. A person who does not continue in the Word of Christ cannot claim to truly be His disciple.

B. Two passages of Scripture immediately come to mind.

1. John 14:21-24

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 **He who does not love Me does not keep My words**; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

2. 1 John 2:3-6

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 **but whoever keeps His Word**, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 **the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

C. What characterized Jesus walk before the Father? John 8:28-29

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but **I speak these things as the Father taught Me.** 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for **I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**"

NOTE: If we are truly Jesus’ disciples what was true of Him will be true of us to a greater and greater degree. 1 John 2:6

## III. A promise made. “And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

A. The truth Jesus is talking about is a liberating truth; a truth that sets us free to be all that we can be in Jesus Christ.

B. There are many who, in the name of Christ, seek to bring us into bondage. Galatians 2:4

C. This is in direct opposition to what Jesus actually came to accomplish. Galatians 5:1  
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

D. Here are a few supporting and cautionary verses.

1. James 1:22-25

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, **the law of liberty**, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

2. James 2:12

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

3. Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

4. 1 Peter 2:16

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

#### **APPLICATION**

1. Most of the earth's population are prisoners in the Domain of Darkness, but God rescued us from that Dark Domain, and transferred us to the Kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13

2. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set (us) free from the law of sin and death."  
Romans 8:2

3. Those who know Christ in truth, who rely on His indwelling presence and power, who know and apply His Word, and who follow Him faithfully possess freedom and liberty that this world knows nothing about.