

The Pathway to Freedom

John 8:31-36

Whenever people put their faith in Jesus, he immediately begins to test their faith. He wants to find out if they truly believe or if they are merely professing the words. In John 8:31-36, Jesus defines the characteristic of true belief. He explains that the mark of a true disciple is whether or not he or she continues to follow the instructions of his or her teacher. It is when we continue to follow Jesus' instructions that we come to know the truth which in turn leads us to greater freedom.

If we want to experience true freedom, we need to live in God's Word. ***The pathway to freedom goes through God's Word.***

Jesus is addressing those who had professed faith in him (30-31).

A disciple is essentially a learner. The mark of a true disciple is continuing in the instructions of his or her teacher (31).

Abiding has the idea of presence, of taking up a permanent residence in a specific location.

Disciples who continue to abide come to know the truth (32).

Jesus' words are truth because he is the incarnation of truth (1:14; 14:6).

Truth is not merely intellectual. To know the truth requires a commitment to the person of truth, Jesus.

Jesus' hearers denied that they needed to be set free (33). They conveniently forgot Israel's history of bondage to Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Greece, and Rome.

Jesus clarified his comment with a strong affirmation of truth (34).

Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. Rather than an occasional lapse, Jesus is speaking of the continual habit of sin.

The Jews thought they had a secure, privileged position in God's household (35).

Just as Ishmael, Abraham's slave son, was cast out of the house (Genesis 21:8-21), so those in sin are in danger. Isaac was a son who belonged and therefore remained in the house.

The Son of God has the authority to liberate slaves from their bondage to sin and its consequences (36).

Are you bound or free?

Are you abiding in Christ or have you returned to your old way of life?

The first step to abiding in Christ is to become a student of the Word of God.

The second step to abiding in Christ is to obey what you learn.

Demonstrate your discipleship by abiding in Christ.

Then you will know the One who is Truth, and you will experience true freedom.