

**John 8:30-31**

*Are You Truly a Believing Disciple?*

**INTRO:** For a season George Whitefield was an uber religious “Holy Club” member but was not “born again” (John 3:1-11; Matthew 7:22-23; John 2:23-25; 6:66).

What is Christian discipleship? Jesus helps us understand what genuine faith looks like.

In John 8:30-31 the Savior Establishes Twin Truths

1) **True Believers** \_\_\_\_\_ **to Jesus’ Teaching**

(John 8:31; 14:15; Luke 6:46-49; 2 Cor. 13:5)

In John 8:30-31 the Lord Jesus establishes twin truths

2) **True Believers Continue to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of Christ.**

(John 8:31; Col. 1:22-23; 1 John 2:4-6; Phil. 1:6)

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

What is the main thing you took away from this morning's exposition? What do you want to study further based on what you heard today?

It is possible to be uber religious and to not be genuinely "born again." George Whitefield wrote about this based on his own personal testimony. As a devout member of the "Holy Club" Whitefield came to understand that he was not yet a "new creation" in Christ. 1800 years earlier Jesus shocked one of the leading teachers in Israel (Nicodemus) when he said, "You (too) must be born again" (John 3:1-10; 6:63). Nick at night would have been pope-like in terms of his religiosity.

Are you truly a believing disciple? Does Jesus have faith in your faith? Are you genuinely born again? Note 2 Cor. 13:5 and Matthew 7:22-23. See also John 2:23-25; 6:66; John 8:30-31.

What are the twin truths that Jesus communicated in John 8:31? Are you truly a believing disciple?

One author reminds us, "To profess something is to openly declare it. When we use the term profession of faith, we usually refer to a person's public declaration of his or her intent to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Because words do not always reflect the true condition of the heart, a profession of faith is not always a guarantee of true salvation."

Many claim the Name but do not walk the talk. Justin Bieber says Jesus is His Savior. Many false teachers preach a false gospel. One that offers all the benefits of salvation without genuine trusting faith (as Scriptures describes it; note the book of James and the verses listed above: 2 Cor. 13:5 and Matthew 7:22-23. See also John 2:23-25; 6:66; John 8:30-31). Many megachurch preachers tell sinners that they can enjoy Christ as Savior/Provider/Protector/Healer without truly obeying Him as God/King/Lord. John 8:31; 14:15. Luke 9:23-25. 1 John 2:15. Words without a heart change are just words.

"The obedience of faith" (Romans 1:5) is solid evidence of genuine conversion. Said differently, "Perseverance with fruit is the necessary sign of genuine, saving trust in Christ." MacArthur. Colossians 1:22-23; 1 John 2:4-6. Spirit help me to abide!

What is the proper relationship between trust in Christ (faith) and progressive sanctification ("works" prepared beforehand by God for true believers to walk in)? Note Ephesians 2:8-10. The grace that saves is the grace that transforms (abiding believers).

"Remaining/Abiding in Christ's Words involves being governed by His teaching and is essentially the same as having Christ's word remaining in one's life. Evidence of genuine discipleship is found in unswerving adherence in life & thought to Christ's Revelation and teaching! (ala Jn 5:48; 8:37)." Murray J Harris (N.T. Greek scholar)

Who in your life might God want you to share the twin truths from this biblical passage with? Pray and ask God to give you an opportunity to do so.

Evan Jones, our deacon of local outreach and personal evangelism, would love to talk with you if you ever have any questions. We are here for you.