

Disciples Indeed. Free Indeed.

John Cole

Jesus forgives and frees us from condemnation when we believe on Him for salvation, yet Jesus still instructs and expects us to follow Him in a life of holiness. Disciples indeed will continue following Jesus and abiding in His word. Are you a disciple indeed?

› SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31–36 KJV

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

› INTRODUCTION

Please notice with me the ending of verses 31 and 36.

“Disciples indeed.”

“Free indeed.”

What does it mean to truly be a disciple of Jesus?

There are many who claim this. Are they all disciples indeed?

What does it mean to be free?

There are many who claim and demand freedom to live, dress, and behave however they please.

Are they free indeed?

Is freedom the right to exploit ones lusts, body, and rebellions?

This is the message and mindset of our world and, unfortunately, of many who profess to follow Christ.

It may be so in the sense of permission, but not so in the sense of consequences and control.

Let's look at the beginning of our text.

› EXPLORE TEXTS

John 8:1–5 KJV

¹ Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

⁴ They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

John 8:6 KJV

⁶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.

The Jewish leaders had already disregarded the law by arresting the woman without the man. The law required that both parties to adultery be stoned (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). The leaders were using the woman as a trap so they could trick Jesus. If Jesus said the woman should not be stoned, they would accuse him of violating Moses' law. If he urged them to execute her, they would report him to the Romans, who did not permit the Jews to carry out their own executions (18:31). - *Life Application Study Bible*

John 8:7–8 KJV

⁷ So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

⁸ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

John 8:10–11 KJV

¹⁰ When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Go and sin no more.

- This is a goal to pursue, not an expectation to fulfill.

| He said the same thing to the blind man He healed:

John 5:14 KJV

¹⁴ Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole:

sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Jesus forgives and frees us from condemnation when we believe on Him for salvation, yet Jesus still instructs and expects us to follow Him in a life of holiness.

While Jesus removed condemnation of the person, He still condemned the act of continuing in sin.

Jesus also warned of the consequences of continuing in sin after being made whole.

John 8:12 KJV

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus went on to say that those who follow Him do not walk, or continue, in darkness; rather, they have the light of life.

If someone genuinely has the Light, why would they continue in darkness?

Why do so many who profess to be followers of Jesus continue to seek darkness and claim Jesus is okay with it?

If we truly have Jesus, we seek to please Him.

Deceivers have convinced some followers of Jesus that Jesus came to give them the liberty to walk in darkness and enjoy it. This is far from the truth.

Christ's forgiveness is not an excuse to sin.

Psalms 130:4 KJV

⁴ But *there is* forgiveness with thee, That thou mayest be feared.

The Bible Exposition Commentary Chapter Eight: Contrasts and Conflicts (John 8)

Certainly the experience of gracious forgiveness would motivate the penitent sinner to live a holy and obedient life to the glory of God.

Jesus went on to teach Jews who seemed to claim to believe on Him that they would reveal if they were truly believing on Him if they continued, or abided, in His word.

John 8:31 KJV

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

John 15:7 KJV

⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

True believers abide in Jesus and experience a personal relationship with answered prayers.

John 8:31–36 KJV

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Choosing not to genuinely believe on Jesus and follow Him leaves one in bondage as a servant of sin.

Those who claim Jesus frees to enjoy the pleasures of sin are entirely wrong.

Jesus gives grace to free us from the bondage and condemnation of sin and to enable us to fear God in awe of both His holiness and love.

Notice Jesus says TRUTH frees, not sin.

That perspective moves us to abandon sin and run to godliness.

Romans 6:13–18 KJV

¹³ Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Some promise liberty in sinful and sensual lifestyles.

In reality, they and those who follow them are enslaved by their lusts and supposed liberties.

2 Peter 2:19 KJV

¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Again, God's grace teaches and motivates us to deny ungodliness and worldliness.

Titus 2:11–15 KJV

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

¹⁵ These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Why do professing followers of Christ admire, copy, and follow worldly icons?

Why do we mimic their sensual, skin-tight and bodily revealing clothing styles?

Do we believe Jesus' words that adultery in the mind is still adultery? Followers of Christ should not provoke this.

Why do we copy their rebellious, gender-neutral trends?

Why do we feed our lusts with their sensual, self-glorifying, rebellious music?

- Their music is all about what I want and how I feel.
- Godly music lifts up what God says and Who He is.

› CONCLUSION

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Consumed By Their Own Lust

Consumed By Their Own Lust

Radio personality Paul Harvey tells the story of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The account is grisly, yet it offers fresh insight into the consuming, self-destructive nature of sin.

First, the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood. Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait, he licks it, tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the arctic night. So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor-sharp sting of the naked blade on his own tongue, nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his OWN warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more—until the dawn finds him dead in the snow!

It is a fearful thing that people can be “consumed by their own lusts.” Only God’s grace keeps us from the wolf’s fate.

Chris T. Zwingelberg

Sure, in the beginning of our text, Jesus forgave and did not condemn the adulterous woman.

And then he said, **“Go, and Sin No More.”**

- That is a goal to pursue, not an expectation to fulfill.

Jesus wanted her to abandon her sin, continue in His Word, and abide in Him.

Disciples indeed, continue in Jesus’ word and abide in Him.

Those who abide in Jesus experience true freedom from the bondage of sin, lust, pride, and related consequences.

Let's be disciples indeed.

Continue in Jesus' word.

Abide in Jesus.

Pursue the goal: sin no more.

When you sin, you have Jesus, the advocate.

And continue abiding in Jesus.

Jesus forgives and frees us from condemnation when we believe on Him for salvation, yet Jesus still instructs and expects us to follow Him in a life of holiness and true freedom.

Disciples indeed will continue following Jesus and abiding in His word.

Are you a disciple indeed?

Are you free indeed?