

Essentials

Getting to the heart of the Christian faith.

“Essential Discipleship: Everybody Worships”

September 8, 2019

What does it actually mean to be a Christian?

John 8:31–39 (English Standard Version)

The Truth Will Set You Free

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.”

You Are of Your Father the Devil

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did

Outward Church exist to make disciples who love Jesus and live outward. *What actually is a disciple?*

Disciple: A student, pupil, or learner. (The Lexham Bible Dictionary)

To be a disciple of Jesus is to learn from Him.

- Would you describe yourself as a disciple of Jesus?
- Why or why not?



Discipleship as slavery

- Have you ever thought of yourself of being enslaved to anything?
- If your answer is immediately “no”, consider times in your life when you have been stressed, worried, or anxious. What kept you from experiencing freedom in those moments?

“Everyone is a disciple of someone or something.”

- Who have been your most significant “disciplers?”
- What was the ethic or main teaching of your disciplers?
- What was the purpose/goal of what you were being disciplined to do?
- What was the “liturgy” (the way you go about doing life) of your discipleship?
- What was the ultimate promise associated with your discipleship?

Quote by atheist David Foster Wallace:

“Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship... is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough... Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you... Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is... they're unconscious. They are default settings.”

Pastor Matt: *“Outside of Jesus, all discipleship will ultimately fail you.”*

- Can you identify how other forms of discipleship in your life have actually led to slavery?
- When Jesus says “the truth will set you free,” what exactly are we being set free from?

More than simply belief: abiding in the Word

Many of us would say that we are disciples, yet are plagued by “passive observation.”

- You have believed in Jesus, yes. But have you *learned* from Him?



- In what ways are you tempted to become a disciple - a learner, a follower - of something or someone other than the person of Jesus Christ?
- In what ways are you tempted to rely on your Christian heritage, upbringing or “pedigree?”

The evidence of what we’re actually being disciplined by comes when life falls apart.

- Have you ever come to a point in your life where you have been undone?
- What did that reveal to you about the desires of your heart?
- Did you experience freedom through that experience, or did it reveal slavery?

Matthew 11:28-30 (English Standard Version)

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Jesus is the only discipler who offers true freedom.

- What does the above verse reveal about the heart of God, and what Jesus offers to us?
- How do we become a disciple of Jesus?
- Is my relationship with Jesus marked only by belief, or has there been a marked difference in my life as I have followed Him? In other words, what is the evidence that I am following and learning from Jesus?

From slavery to freedom

John 1:1-3 (English Standard Version)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jesus Himself is the Word. When He says “abide in My word,” he’s not saying that the path to true freedom is not a teaching - He’s saying that it is HIM!

- Do you recognize Your need for Jesus?
- How is following Jesus different from simply following teaching about Him?
- What does freedom in Christ look like?
- Are you free?

