*“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples”*

Three Vital Truths About True Discipleship (John 8:31-38)

1. The Nature of True Discipleship (vv.31-32)
   1. The test of true disciples (v.31)
      1. What does it mean to abide?
      2. What is Christ’s word?
      3. What does it mean to abide in His Word?
         1. To persevere in dependent faith in all His teaching.
         2. To persevere in dependence on His person and life (15:4, 7; 1 John 2:24; contra. John 15:2, 6).
      4. What does this practically look like?
         1. It looks like trusting obedience (8:51; 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 2:4-5; 3:6)
         2. It looks like a life of dependence on Christ’s word
         3. It looks like a life of dependence on Christ’s cross work (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).
   2. The privilege of true disciples (v.32)
      1. Knowledge of the truth (14:6; cf. 17:17)
      2. Freedom from sin

*“True freedom is not the liberty to do anything we please, but the liberty to do what we ought; and it is genuine liberty because doing what we ought now pleases us.” (Carson)*

1. The Hinderance to True Discipleship (v.33)
   1. False assurance in one’s pedigree (v.33a; Luke 3:8)
   2. False confidence in one’s spiritual condition (v.33b)
2. The Necessity for True Discipleship (vv.34-38)
   1. The problem of slavery to sin (vv.34-36)
      1. The evidence of slavery to sin (v.34)

*“The despotic master is not Caesar, but shameful self-centeredness, an evil and enslaving devotion to created things at the expense of worship of the Creator…In Jesus’ view, Caesar himself is a slave” (Carson)*

* + 1. The cost of slavery to sin (v.35)
    2. The only hope of deliverance from slavery to sin (v.36)
  1. The truth of spiritual lineage (vv.37-38)