

BRIGHT STAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A STAR in the West Leading People to CHRIST

I AM FREE

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



I AM FREE

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I AM FREE

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

I AM FREE

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I AM FREE

John 8:30 (NIV)

**Even as he spoke, many put
their faith in him.**

I AM FREE

Jesus says those who believe (which includes each of us today) that we must believe and also “hold to His teaching.”

What is Jesus saying?

- o “If you stick with this.” (MsgB)
- o “If you keep obeying my teaching.” (NLT)
- o “If you live by what I say.” (GW) God’s

Word Translation

- o “If you abide in my word.” (NKJV)
- o “If ye continue in my word.” (KJV)

I AM FREE

- In Romans 12: 9 – 13, Paul lists at least 12 ways to live out your faith in front of everyone. They include:
- **1. *Love Sincerely.*** Don't fake it.
- **2. *Hate evil.*** Love what is good and right and true.
- **3. *Be kind.*** Jesus modeled this...copy Him.
- **4. *Be unselfish.*** Consider the needs of others more often.
- **5. *Be enthusiastic.*** Passion is contagious.
- **6. *Stay fired up.*** Fan the flame on your spirit.

I AM FREE

- **7. *Be alert for great opportunities!* Be ready when God open Doors, Don't procrastinate.**
- **8. *Hope Continuously.* Don't give up.**
- **9. *Victory in trials.* Keep looking up.**
- **10. *Persevere in prayer.* Pray expectantly, not out of expectation.**
- **11. *Give generously. Tithes & Offerings and Gratefully share with others.***
- **12. *Be hospitable.* Invite others to join you.**

I AM FREE

Matthew 25:34-46

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

I AM FREE

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

I AM FREE

41 "Then he will say to those on his left,
'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his
angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me
nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me
nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you
did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you
did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison
and you did not look after me.'

I AM FREE

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

I AM FREE



I AM FREE

But why has Jesus set us free?

What good is it to be free if we don't know what we are free to be?

I AM FREE

Freedom From the Penalty of Sin

I AM FREE

Paul tells the Ephesians to “put off” the old self with its deceit and corruption and “put on” the new self with its righteousness. Put off lying and put on truthfulness. Put off stealing and put on usefulness and work. Put off bitterness, rage, and anger, and put on kindness, compassion, and forgiveness (Ephesians 4:22–32).

We have been set free from the bondage of sin, but we often put the chains back on because part of us loves the old life.

I AM FREE

But Jesus shows us that when we believe and abide in Him we are

Free to be an **AUTHENTIC DISCIPLE**,

Free to be **ACQUAINTED** Intimately with the truth, and

Free to be **FREE**.

I AM FREE

I. Free to be an Authentic Disciple

- John 8:31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I AM FREE

A simple definition of disciple is to be a follower, learner or student of Jesus Christ, to follow the teaching and example of Jesus.

To be dusty

Easton's Bible Dictionary defines a disciple as "one who

- (1) believes Christ's doctrine,
- (2) rests upon his sacrifice,
- (3) imbibes his spirit, and
- (4) imitates his example."

I AM FREE

A disciple, follower, believer, supporter, scholar:

- > believes the things Jesus taught,
- > has faith in the death of Jesus to forgive their sin,
- > drinks from the living water that only Jesus can give us which is the Holy Spirit, a disciple is filled with the Holy Spirit,
- > lives a transformed life following Christ's example by the power of the Holy Spirit within them.

I AM FREE

As an authentic disciple how do we follow Christ's example.

— An Authentic Disciple is someone who is
True,
Reliable,
Dependable,
Faithful,
Genuine,
Realistic,
Bona Fide,
not fake or false

I AM FREE

As an authentic disciple how do we follow Christ's example.

- **1 John 2:6 (NIV) Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**

- a) If you are going to follow the example of Jesus and follow in His footsteps, then you need to get to know Jesus! Read the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and see how Jesus lived His life.

- o And don't believe the lie that once you start following Jesus life will be easy and you won't have anymore problems!

I AM FREE

1 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

b) Second, the Holy Spirit will help you to live in alignment with the pattern of Jesus' life.

Learn to listen to the voice of the Spirit directing you in how to live your life each day. Put simply the Holy Spirit will tell you what is right and wrong.

I AM FREE

John 16:7-8 (NIV)

[7] But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor [the Friend, MsgB] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8]

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.

c) Third, you can follow the example of other believers. We need to help each other follow the example Jesus has given to us.

I AM FREE

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 (NIV)

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

When we believe in Christ and abide in Him holding on to His teaching we are set free to be authentic disciples.

BRIGHT STAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A STAR in the West Leading People to CHRIST

I AM FREE

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

