

How do you know a person is a genuine follower of Jesus?

EXPERT EXAMINATION

John 8:31 "Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, "You are **truly** my disciples if you **remain faithful to my teachings.**"

Other translations:

- "If you **hold to my teaching**" (NIV)
- "If you **obey my teaching**" (TEV)
- "If you **continue in My word**" (NASB)
- "If you **make my word your home**"(NJB)
- "If you **remain in my word**" (NAB)
- "If you **live as I tell you to**" (LB)
- "If you **abide in my word**" (ESV)

The point: A genuine disciple of Jesus not only BELIEVES in Jesus, but also FAITHFULLY LIVES OUT His teachings in his/her life.

The Story:

John 8:31-33 ³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ³³ But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" (NLT)

John 8:33 "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" (NLT)

John 8:34-36 ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ "A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."

Matthew 3:8-9 ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹ Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones." (NLT)

Galatians 3:7 "The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God." (NLT)

John 8:37-38 ³⁷ Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. ³⁸ I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father."

John 8:39-41 ³⁹ "Our father is Abraham!" they declared. "No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow His example. ⁴⁰ Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. ⁴¹ No, you are imitating your real father." They replied, "We aren't illegitimate children! God Himself is our true Father."

Genesis 12:1-3 ¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." (NLT)

John 8:42-47 ⁴² Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but He sent me. ⁴³ Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! ⁴⁴ **For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.** ⁴⁵ So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! ⁴⁶ Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? An since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

John 8:48-50 ⁴⁸ The people retorted, "You Samaritan devil! Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?" ⁴⁹ "No," Jesus said, "I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge.

John 8:51-53 ⁵¹ I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!" ⁵² The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, 'Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

John 8:54-56 ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I want glory for myself, it doesn't count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, 'He is our God,' ⁵⁵ but you don't even know Him. I know Him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know Him and obey Him. ⁵⁶ Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

Galatians 3:8-9 ⁴⁸ ... the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in His sight because of their faith. God proclaimed the good news to Abraham long ago when He said, "All the nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of His faith." (NLT)

John 8:57-59 ⁵⁷ The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!" ⁵⁹ At that point they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple."

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WHY I SHOULD ABIDE IN CHRIST

1. I will know the TRUTH.

John 8:32 "... you will know the truth ..."

Ephesians 1:13 "And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago."

2. I will be SET FREE from sin.

John 8:32 "... and the truth will set you free."

2 Peter 2:19 "They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you." (NLT)

Romans 6:16-18 ¹⁶ Don't you realize that **you become a slave of whatever you choose to obey**? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves to sin, but now you wholeheartedly **obey this teaching** we have given you. ¹⁸ Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living." (NLT)

3. I will be a true CHILD OF GOD.

John 8:47 "Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

1 John 1:9 “Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.” (NLT)

John 14:15-17 “¹⁵ If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you.”

4. I will not DIE.

John 8:51 “I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!”

Psalms 1:1-6 “¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. ² But **they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.** ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. ⁴ But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. ⁵ They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. ⁶ For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.” (NLT)

Matthew 10:28 “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (NLT)

The point: A genuine disciple of Jesus not only BELIEVES in Jesus, but also FAITHFULLY LIVES OUT His teachings in his/her life.

BOTTOM LINE

1. Don’t TAKE FOR GRANTED your relationship with Jesus.
2. Don’t KEEP YOUR BIBLE on the shelf.
3. Don’t PUT OFF believing and faithfully following Jesus.

COMMUNION

1 John 2:1-6 “¹ My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He Himself is the sacrifice that

atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. ³ And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word **truly show** how completely they love Him. This is how we know we are living in Him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” (NLT)