**John 8:31-32 One Condition, Three Results**

John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

One Condition, Three Benefits/Results:

* **If ye continue in my word**
* then are ye my disciples indeed
* ye shall know the truth
* the truth shall make you free

If ye continue in my word

This is the condition. We have to do more than just believe in Jesus to be a true disciple of his; we have to continue in his word. For example, are churches continuing in Jesus’ word if they allow?:

* gay marriage Matt 19:4-5 “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”
* women preachers I Cor 14:34-35 “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed

There are all kinds of believers out there claiming to be disciples, but are they true disciples? Not if they are not continuing in Jesus’ teachings. A true disciple/learner is one that is willing to change when they find out they have been wrong in their religious belief or practice:

* John 12:42-43 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
* Acts 19:1,3-5 “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples … And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

If ye continue in my word, ye shall know the truth – knowing truth is also contingent on continuing in the word

* Matt 7:7 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”
* Matt 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
* John 7:17 “Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” (NIV)

If ye continue in my word, the truth shall make you free – false religious teaching will not set us free from sin

* II John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”
* Matt 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”