

God's Word is the standard of truth.

But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. John 8:45 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)

Sanctify them in the truth: your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

Genuine believers experience freedom from sin.

and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32 (ESV)

Because of Jesus, I do NOT have to sin.

For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!... Romans 7:22–25 (NKJV)

While sin no longer reigns, the allure of sin remains.

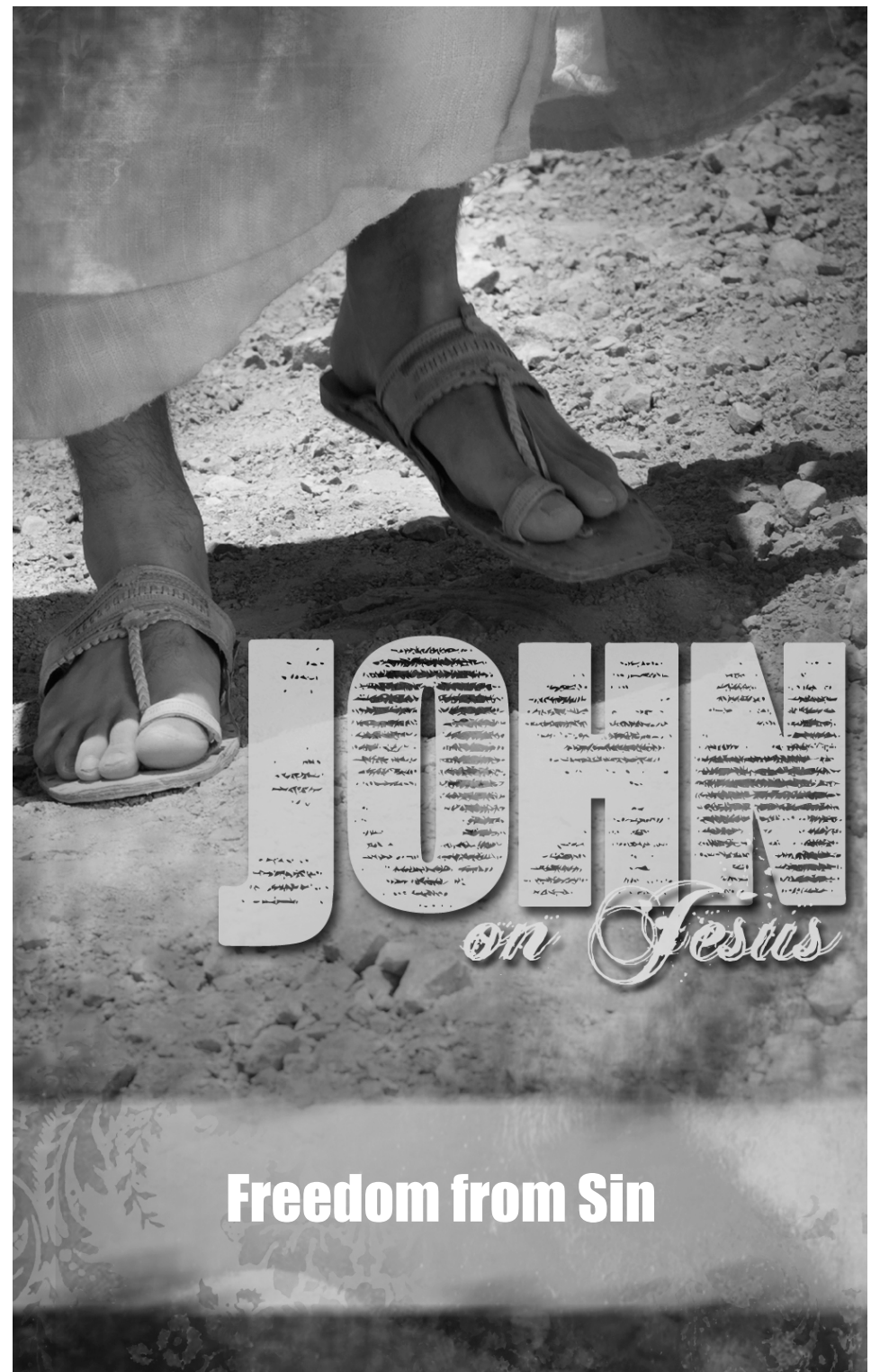
...who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:4–6 (ESV)

Conclusion

1. Everyone who proclaims freedom from Christ finds slavery to sin. Everyone who proclaims dependence upon Christ finds freedom from sin.
2. The devil is the father of all who are not following Jesus. He fills the world with lies. Jesus comes from God, his words are the standard of truth..
3. Not all disciples are genuine disciples. Only those who abide in the word of Christ are following Christ.

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Faith Church - EFCA

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John 8:30-38

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. John 8:34 (ESV)

Background

Not all disciples are genuine disciples.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, John 8:31 (ESV)

After the Bread of Life Discourse many fell away.

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. John 6:66 (ESV)

Prior to his crucifixion many believed but were afraid to stand with him.

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. John 12:42-43 (ESV)

As we look at life, there are three categories of people.

1. Those who don't follow Christ
2. Disciples who claim to follow Christ but give no evidence of it
3. Genuine disciples who abide in Christ's Word.

A genuine disciple of Christ abides in his Word.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, John 8:31 (ESV)

Abiding in Christ's Word is obeying his word.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? James 2:14 (ESV)

Abiding in Christ's Word is loving his word.

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. Psalm 119:18 (ESV)

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word! Psalm 119:28 (ESV)

Abiding in Christ's Word is learning his word.

Disciple = Learner

Jesus promises genuine disciples will know the truth.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (ESV)

The truth is there are only two kinds of people on the planet.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. John 8:42 (ESV)

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (ESV)