



The Best Way & Worst Way to Live
John 8:31-36

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Everyone has an opinion on what "The Good Life" is. For some, it's financial independence. For others, it's autonomy from government control. For still others, it's the ability to do whatever you want whenever you feel like it. Jesus offers a different kind of freedom and a better brand of life.

The Best Way & Worst Way to Live

John 8:31-36

Here Jesus tells us what the best way to live really is: It's the freedom to be a genuine disciple. And He tells us what the worst way to live really is: It's the slavery of a sinful lifestyle.

Today consider how free you really are and what areas of life you may still be in bondage to.

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

Believing in Christ (v.31a)

Problem: Jesus says to the "believers," "you are trying to kill me" – John 8:37 and "you are of your father, the devil." – John 8:44; two separate groups

Believe in Him - believe on Him (KJV)

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

"believed what He said was true, but not prepared to yield Him the far-reaching allegiance real trust implies," – Leon Morris

Demons believe and tremble – James 2:19

Christ did not commit Himself to them, because
He knew all men – John 2:24

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith – 2
Corinthians 13:5

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

Continuing in the Word (v.31b)

Abide- (used 34 times in the New Testament, John uses 31 of those times) - remain in, continue on in something

Real disciples are committed to continuing in His Truth

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

Continuing in the Word (v.31b)

"Long obedience in the same direction," —
Eugene Peterson

Disciple - (mathetes gr.) - learner

How often do you read the Bible personally?

How often do you meditate on it?

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

Knowing the Truth (v.32)

Deep convictions, guiding principles

According to Newsweek, 85% of American Christians believe there are ways beside Christ to heaven

The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

Relationship, not religion

We are to be people of the Book

Man shall not live by bread alone –

Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly –

Colossians 3:16

The Worst Way to **Live**—*In Slavery* (to a sinful lifestyle)

To the **Slave Master** of Sin (vv. 33-36)

The Jews had been slaves over their entire history (Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia, Seleucid Syrian, Rome)

The Worst Way to **Live**—*In Slavery* (to a sinful lifestyle)

We are Jewish, we are automatically children of God. We'll go to heaven because of our heritage , "even the poor are sons of kings," –

Rabbi Akiva

Worst form of slavery is when sin has a **grip** on your life, you can't get out of it

The Worst Way to Live—*In Slavery* (to a sinful lifestyle)

To an Impenetrable Heart (v.37)

Hardened heart

Seed fell by the wayside; the wicked one snatches it away – Matthew 13:19

Only the Son of God can free a slave of sin, and He makes him part of the family