

Who is Your Father?

Scripture: John 8:37-47

1. Heritage Is Not Holiness (John 8:37–38)

- **The Distinction:** Jesus acknowledges the Pharisees as Abraham's biological offspring; but denies that they are his _____ children.
- **The Diagnosis:** The Word of Christ found no place in their hearts because they were packed tightly with _____.
- **The Principle:** A true son mirrors his father. The rogue carpenter had the right heritage; but completely lacked the _____.
- **The Analogy of the Master Carpenter:** Having a father's name does not mean you have your father's _____.

2. Defining Spiritual Family (John 8:39–41)

- **The Disconnect:** Abraham was a man of faith, humility, and truth; the Pharisees responded to God's ultimate Messenger with _____.
- **The Danger:** Inherited faith is an illusion. You cannot slide into the Kingdom on the coattails of your family tree because God has no _____.
- **The Defense:** When their religious security was dismantled, the crowd grew defensive, launching insults and claiming God alone as their Father.

3. Tests of True Discipleship (John 8:42–47)

- **Test 1: Loving Jesus (v. 42):** You cannot love the Father while rejecting the Son. A cold or hostile attitude toward Jesus proves a person does _____ God.
- **Test 2: Understanding God's Will (v. 43):** Failing to understand Jesus is a _____ problem, not an intellectual one. Hard hearts lack the capacity to bear His word.
- **Test 3: Desiring God's Will (v. 44):** Jesus reveals their true identity: "You are of your father the devil." Their actions prove it because they imitate Satan's two defining traits: he is a _____ and a _____.
- **Test 4: Believing the Truth (v. 45-46):** The Pharisees rejected Jesus precisely because He told the unvarnished truth about their sin. Yet, when challenged to convict Jesus of a single moral flaw, the enemies were met with absolute _____.
- **Test 5: Responsiveness (v. 47):** The ultimate dividing line is how we react to God's voice. To "hear" God's word means to listen with an open mind, receive it with an honest heart, and actively _____.

4. Discussion & Reflection Questions

- **1. Observation:** In verse 44, Jesus highlights two major characteristics of the devil (murder and lying) and links them to the actions of the religious leaders. In what ways do modern actions like gossip, malice, or deceit signal whose "family business" we are operating?
- **2. Heart Reflection:** Jesus told the religious elite that His word "finds no place" in them because their hearts were already full. What "junk" or clutter in your own life might be crowding out the Word of God right now?
- **3. Application:** Jesus issued a spiritual diagnostic exam with 5 specific tests (Love, Understanding, Desire, Belief, and Responsiveness). Grade yourself honestly: which of these tests do you find most challenging to pass consistently in your daily life?
- **4. Action Step:** According to John 1:12, we are not born into God's family by default; but adopted through faith. What is one specific area of your life this week where your daily actions can clearly prove to the world that you are a child of God?