



Calvary of Albuquerque

The Devil's DNA - John 8:37-47

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Your body has 100 trillion cells. Inside each one is a nucleus and in each nucleus are DNA molecules. DNA is like an instruction manual for life with densely coded information telling each cell what to do. A simple paternity test would prove that my father was really my father. Here Jesus gives His audience a spiritual paternity test that reveals their spiritual father to be the devil himself. No matter what your physical ancestry, you can always tell one's spiritual heritage.

OUTLINE

- I. The Premise (vv. 37-47)
 - A. The Devil is Real
 - B. Everyone Has a Relationship
- II. The Pretenders
 - A. Their Physical Birthright (v. 39)
 - B. Their Spiritual Boast (v. 41)
- III. The Paternity Test
 - A. Who Do You Love? (v. 42)
 - B. What Do You Understand? (v. 43)
 - C. What Are You Doing? (v. 44)
 - D. When Do You Listen? (vv. 45-47)



Making it More Than a Sermon:

1. What does it mean to be a true child of Abraham? (See Romans 2:28-29; Romans 9:6)
2. How do people's actions and interests reveal their true "father"?
3. How do you distinguish the devil's work from your own natural desires?

DETAILED NOTES

Universalism is the belief that everyone, no matter who they are or what they believe will eventually be saved; the universal Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. It is a lovely thought; however, it is wrong. If you believe the Bible, or even just the words of Christ, you could not come to that conclusion. It is a worldview that is different from reality. God is not the Father of all humanity. He is not the Father of many who think he is their Father.

This group Jesus is addressing in this text believed God was their Father, but they had murder in their heart, detested truth, and hated God's messenger.

- I. The Premise (vv. 37-47)
 - A. The Devil is Real
 1. Historical figure (like Abraham)
 2. Person (he, not it; him, not that)
 3. Fallen (murderer, liar)
 4. Belief that the devil is a myth
 - a. Gallup poll 70% believe in a "devil"
 - i. 50% of those believe in a personal devil
 - ii. 50% of those believe a symbol of evil

- b. Barna asked born again Christians "the Devil is not a living being, he is just a symbol"
 - i. 32% strongly agree
 - ii. 11% agree somewhat
 - iii. 5% don't know

B. Everyone Has a Relationship

- 1. Either the devil is your father or the devil is your enemy
- 2. The devil gives you the lie you are your own master - *The Fight*, John White
- 3. We don't struggle against flesh and blood - Ephesians 6:12
- 4. Irreducible minimum
 - a. Born again or not
 - b. Light or darkness
 - c. Saved or lost
 - d. Sons of God or sons of the devil
 - e. For Me or against Me
- 5. You want the devil as your enemy
- 6. Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world - 1 John 4:4

II. The Pretenders

A. Their Physical Birthright (v. 39)

- 1. Abraham's descendents
- 2. Abraham
 - a. Believed God
 - b. Received heavenly messengers
- 3. These pretenders
 - a. Don't believe Christ
 - b. Don't receive Christ

B. Their Spiritual Boast (v. 41)

- 1. Related physically, miles apart spiritually
 - a. Manasseh wicked king, son of one of the best kings, Hezekiah - 2 Kings 21:11
 - b. We are not born of fornication (alluding to rumor that Jesus was illegitimate)
- 2. Because we are physical descendants of Abraham, we'll be in heaven
 - a. Rabbis taught that Abraham forbids Israelites from entering hell
 - b. Believe all Jews will be in heaven
 - c. Israel is my firstborn-Exodus 4:22
 - d. Not all who descended from Israel are Israel - Romans 9:6-7

C. God has no grandchildren

- 1. Christian parents or grandparents give a great heritage
- 2. Aaron Burr is the grandson of Jonathan Edwards
- 3. Every generation must have their own relationship with Christ

III. The Paternity Test

A. Who Do You Love? (v. 42)

- 1. Love Jesus
- 2. Talk, spend time with Jesus
- 3. Though you have not seen him, you love him - 1 Peter 1:8
- 4. Peter, do you love Me? Three times - John 21:15-19

B. What Do You Understand? (v. 43)

- 1. Children understand the language of their father
- 2. Natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:14
- 3. Devil blinds them - 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 4. Hearts must be opened by the Lord Himself

C. What Are You Doing? (v. 44)

- 1. Actions prove your relationships
- 2. Have the commands and obeys them - Luke 6:46-47
- 3. Paternity of God is demonstrated by conformity of God's kids
- 4. Obedience proves relationship, does not produce relationship

D. When Do You Listen? (vv. 45-47)

- 1. Refusal to hear reveals the God is not your Father
- 2. Didn't listen to prophets - Isaiah 30:9
- 3. Jesus didn't comfort their affliction, he afflicted their comfort

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- 3. How do you distinguish the devil's work from your own natural desires?

Figures referenced: Aaron Burr; Jonathan Edwards; Erma Bombeck

Publications referenced: *The Fight*, by John White

Cross references: Exodus 4:22; 2 Kings 21:11; Isaiah 30:9; Luke 6:46-47; John 21:15-19; Romans 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 4:4

