

John 8:37-48  
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WE'RE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, AREN'T WE?

OR

THE RECOGNITION OF A SON

## I. THE RECOGNITION OF A SON - IN THE CASE OF JESUS

- A. Through external evidence
- B. Through internal obedience

## II. THE RECOGNITION OF A SON - IN THE CASE OF THE PHARASEES

- A. Through external evidence
- B. Through internal disobedience

READ **John 8:19**, Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, **Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.**

*Review of discussions on the information in **chapters 5 & 8** that Jesus has said in regard to how He does His Fathers will.*

THIS WILL SHOW US HOW A SON IS KNOWN.

## I. THE RECOGNITION OF A SON - IN THE CASE OF JESUS

### A. THROUGH EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

**Jn. 3:35** " the **father** loveth the **son** and hath given all things into his hand."

**5:17** "**my father** worketh hitherto, and I work also

**19-20** whatever the **father** does, that is what the **son** does.

**5:26** "as the **Father** hath life So does the **Son**."

### B. THROUGH INTERNAL OBEDIENCE

**5:30** and **36**

**Joh 5:30** I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I **seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

**Joh 5:36** But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Jesus sought to do only the will of the Father who sent Him; and He did the works of the Father,"

**8:16 & 17** the Father's testimony concerning His Son (in whom He is well pleased) [Mat 3:17](#) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am **well pleased**.

**Joh 8:16** And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but **I and the Father** that sent me.

Joh 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

8:26-27 They were not sure what it was that Jesus was saying.

Joh 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

Joh 8:27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.

8:29 " the Father hath not left me alone: FOR I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM

Jesus said all these things to establish the fact that God was his Father and that he is come from the Father to this people to accomplish the Father's will.

HE TELLS THEM THAT IF THEY WILL CONTINUE IN HIS WORD, they will be his Disciples - and - will be free from being the servants of sin. 31 . . ." *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*"

**In 8:31** “. . . Jesus made a distinction between those who are disciples and those who are **disciples indeed**. A disciple is anyone who professes to be a learner, but a **disciple indeed** is one who has definitely committed himself to the Lord Jesus Christ. **Those who are true believers have this characteristic—they abide in His Word**. This means that they **continue in the teachings of Christ**. They do not turn aside from Him. **True faith always has the quality of permanence**. They are **not saved by abiding in His Word, but they abide in His Word because they are saved**. *Believers Bible Commentary, BBC*

**Joh 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

Segue:

**Joh 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

Though the truth makes us free – it does not mean that we are free from the truth. That which liberates is also meant to instruct, direct and guide our lives.

I see a parallel here between our walk with God and obedience to his Word and with our walk as American citizens – who are likewise bound by the words of our founding documents.

When we abide in the wisdom of the Dec. of Ind. And the Constitution, we prosper – when we fail to do so – we will surely fail.

**John Adams wrote in 1774 – that a republic is** "A government of laws, and not of men". By that he meant that we were not ruled by a whimsical King who could at any moment issue edicts with the force of law – but rather that the laws that have been properly established rule over the lives of men – and all men, king or pauper are bound to be subject to those laws. (*actually he was speaking of England and its laws. However, by extension in 1774, as English Subjects – we were under the same English law, )* In the seventh Novanglus letter, Adams wrote that "the British constitution is much more like a republic than an empire...a government of laws, and not of men."

"What is the American Idea? In short, it is **self-government under the rule of law**. It is rooted in our respect for the rights with which we are each endowed (*by our Creator MN*), a respect that shapes a society where every person can work hard, achieve success, and advance in life." . *Paul Ryan, writing in Imprimus, July/August 2014.*

Our Declaration and our Constitution define nothing less than a way of life for a people—a free people of good character, who would labor for themselves, their families, and their communities, grateful to the Creator for their rights, and committed to providing the blessings of liberty to their posterity.

The Founders disagreed among themselves about many particulars in the Constitution. . . . But there was one thing on which they all agreed: **The Constitution was our guide and the Declaration our North Star**. And the Constitution endured because it allowed prudent statesmen to make wise decisions that preserved self-government under the rule of law.

(*We have a problem in our country today mn*) our current president **treats the rule of law like a rule of thumb**. But look more closely, and you'll see the problem isn't this president—or at least not only this president. When he leaves office, there will be plenty of politicians like him ready to take his place. All he's done is continue to empower a certain governing philosophy—one at odds with our Founding principles. This governing philosophy has been gaining ground for a very long time, and continues to do so. The point is, the opponents of American conservatism see politics as a long-term project; we conservatives need to do the same. *Paul Ryan, writing in Imprimus, July/August 2014.*

A similar problem exists in the church today. Many people see the Word of God as a “rule of thumb” and not as the rule of law. We know the truth and the truth has made us free – but woe unto the man/woman/teenager who thinks he is free from the truth of the Word of God.

A disciple may live in the house for a season, but the “disciple indeed” abides eternally in the Father's house.

For, as he points out, IT IS **NOT THE SERVANT, BUT THE SON** WHO WILL ABIDE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE FOREVER. **Jn. 8:35 “ . . . the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever**

In This Case, It Is Those Who Are The Sons Of God That Will Live With God.

THIS LEADS NATURALLY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE PATERNAL HERITAGE OF THOSE TO WHOM JESUS WAS SPEAKING

## II. THE RECOGNITION OF A SON - IN THE CASE OF THE PHARASEES

### A. THROUGH EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

Read **37-9**. A discussion of lineage. It is true that they are from Abraham. THEY ARE IN HIS FAMILY LINE. THEY ARE JEWS.

**Joh 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.**

**Joh 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.**

**Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

But, Jesus does not say that Abraham is their father!

### B. THROUGH INTERNAL DISOBEDIENCE

HE TELLS THEM THAT **THEY ARE OBEDIENT TO THEIR FATHER JUST AS HE IS OBEDIENT TO HIS FATHER.**

This prompts the Jew to declare that their father is Abraham  
**39A**

JESUS SAYS THAT THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY SO. **39B**

## PAUL THE APOSTLE SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON THIS MATTER:

**Rm. 9:6-7-8** "for they are not all Israel, who are of Israel. Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children. They who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as the seed."

**Rm. 2:28-29** "for he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, but he is a Jew who is one inwardly"

(**GAL. 3:29.** but if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.)

**39** Jesus' calls this claim of theirs into question. **39 b - 40.** The test of our true parental lineage is **not who sired us**, but rather **whose image we bear** .

**Jesus points out to them that if they were Abraham's kids they would DO THE WORKS OF ABRAHAM - ERGO - FAITH IN GOD AND A LIFE CHARACTERISED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**John the Baptist** ran into this same crowd when he was preaching

**Lk. 3:8** "bring forth, therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham as our father; for I say unto you, God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

Their lifestyle was not one characterized by **righteousness and truth** but by **hypocrisy and lies. 41. 8:41**  
**Ye do the deeds of your father**

**\*\*Jn 8:40. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.**

Abraham would not have rejected God's messenger and attempt to kill Him

RATHER

**Gen. 15:6** "and Abraham believed in the Lord and the Lord counted it to him for righteousness."

Abraham BELIEVED GOD AND OBEYED HIM.

\* \* **8:41** Since the Jew's **works** differed from those of Abraham, so too must their parentage be different.

IN THEIR EFFORT TO EVADE JESUS' LOGIC, THEY **DENY ANY ILLEGITIMATE PATERNITY AND CLAIM INSTEAD GOD AS THEIR HEVENLY FATHER.**"

**Joh 8:41** *Ye do the deeds of your father.* Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have **one Father, even God.**

BUT,,,,,IF THEIR CLAIM WERE TRUE, THEN THEY WOULD LOVE JESUS

**\*\*8:42**

**John 8:42** Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**

LOVE IS A FAMILY AFFAIR!

In John's first epistle . . .

**I Jn. 5:10**\*\*\*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

**\*\*JOHN 8:43** Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

What was the Jewish Leadership Problem?

CF. **1 COR. 2:14.**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

LINK UP WITH **8:47** "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because **ye are not of God.**

Do you remember what Jesus told the Woman at the Well?

**John 4:21-23** " . . . Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

**Joh 4:22** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

**Joh 4:23** **But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:** for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

INVITATION:

**Mat. 11:25-27** " . . . no man knows the Father but the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.\*"

**Mat 11:25** At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

**Mat 11:26** Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

**Mat 11:27** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, **and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**

**ROM. 5:19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

**EPH. 2:2** CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE

**Eph 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the **children of disobedience:**

**ROM. 8:16-17** .. SPIRIT, WE ARE CHILDREN, AND HEIRS,

**Rom 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**Rom 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

CF **JN. 8:35**

**Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

**Joh 8:35** **And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the **Son abideth ever.****

**Joh 13:34** **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **love one another; as I have loved you,** that ye also love one another.**

**Joh 13:35** **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**