*“You are from your father the Devil”*

Two Tests of Spiritual Paternity (John 8:39-47)

1. Test 1: True Children of Abraham Live Lives of Faith Like Abraham (vv.39-41; Gen. 15:6; 22:12; 26:5; Rom. 4:16-21)
   1. False children of Abraham are exposed in their hostile opposition to God’s word (vv.39-40)
   2. False children of Abraham have another father (v.41a)

1. Test 2: True Children of God Love Jesus (vv.41b-47)
   1. The reason God’s children love Jesus (v.42)
      1. His eternal divine nature
      2. His representative coming
   2. The reason mankind rejects Jesus (vv.43-46)
      1. Their total spiritual inability to “hear” Christ (v.43)

*“It is not that his idiom, the peculiar way Jesus dresses his message, is so difficult that they cannot comprehend what he is trying to say. That would suggest the fault is with him: he is a poor communicator. Rather, because they cannot truly ‘hear’ (including ‘obey’!) his message, i.e. the thrust of his word, the content of the revelation of the incarnate Word, therefore they are unable to grasp the meaning of his outward speech. The flaw is therefore not with the communicator, but with those whose values and prejudices make them constitutionally unable to ‘hear’.” (Carson)*

* + 1. Their possession of the Devil’s DNA (vv.44-47)
       1. Manifested in their depraved desires (v.44a)
       2. Manifested in their devilish lifestyle (vv.44b-46)
          1. Of murder
          2. Of opposition to truth
  1. The fundament reason behind all belief (v.47)
     1. Divine paternity produces a submissive faith in Christ
     2. Lack of divine paternity makes faith impossible

Implications:

1. These doctrines should strengthen us in the face of opposition to the Gospel as they give us the MRI of the natural human heart.
2. These doctrines should fill us with humility and cause us to know all that went into our salvation (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-29).

1. These doctrines should give us confidence to declare the truth of God’s Word, knowing that it is through the Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that God causes people to be born again (John 16:8; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).

1. These doctrines call us to examine our own lives and profession.
   1. Do we have lives characterized by the same kind of growing faith and obedience as Abraham? Do we live our lives by faith in what God has declared to be true or condition our obedience based on our own perception of reality?

* 1. Do I love Jesus? Is obedience to Christ and bearing fruit for God a desire and delight in my soul? Do I love other children of God who have also been born again (1 John 5:1)?