

The Children of Abraham

John 8:37-47

The opponents of the Lord had insisted that they did not need to be set free as they were the offspring of Abraham. They claimed to have never been enslaved by anyone.

This was certainly not true in the national sense. They had been slaves to the Egyptians, and their freedom and independence had been dealt many blows by various nations down through the years. Perhaps they meant that they needed no spiritual liberation as they were the children of Abraham, and therefore God's people of choice.

The Lord Jesus Christ indicted them for their resistance to the truth. He told them that they were far from being the spiritual offspring of Abraham. They were indeed Abraham's literal descendants. But their true father was the devil. So said our very plain spoken Lord!

This was evident in that they rejected the word of God, and was even trying to kill him thus breaking the commandment of God. To be the true children of Abraham they would have to behave as he did. They would have to receive the word of God and obey it.

They tried to make another case for their standing. They told the Lord that they were not only Abraham's children, but God's children.

Again the Lord called them to demonstrate the truth of their claim by acting in a way that proved their relationship to God. God is love. *If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here*, said the Lord.

The primary evidence for believing that a person has come to know God through Christ is love for him. And, love for him means that we love those who love him, and that we love his word.

Satan is murderous and would rather lie than tell the truth any day. And, those who follow him are like their father the devil. They have angry murderous hearts, and they do not tell the truth. They do not love the word of God. They have no interest in keeping his word.

The Lord said this, *Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.* Therefore they merely desired the will of Satan as their will.

What is a true child of Abraham? There was of old the nation that God called out to be his own. That nation was called Israel. They were greatly blessed by the Lord, beginning with the deliverance which he gave them from Egyptian bondage.

They were blessed in other ways as well. Paul says this, *"They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever."* (Romans 9:4-5)

But Paul goes on to teach us that God is bringing in the Gentiles (nations) and thus forming a new Israel. He calls this new Israel the *Israel of God*. (Galatians 6:16)

It is faith in Christ alone that places someone in the true Israel of God. And, it is those who have faith in God's Son for salvation that are the true children of Abraham.

This was always true. An entire generation fell in the wilderness because of

disobedience to God. Not everyone who could trace their physical lineage back to Abraham was really a “Jew” in the spiritual sense. Only those who truly believed in the God of Abraham were really his children.

And so it is today. There are many people who identify with the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are doctors who attend worship services, but who practice abortion. There are ministers who preach from the pulpits of the land, but who do not really believe the whole counsel of

God, and do not obey the word of the Lord in the living of their lives.

Where are you today? Are you a mere professor of Christianity claiming that God is your Father? Do you think this is your birthright? Do you see no need for freedom that can only come by a work of the Spirit? Do you think that you deserve heaven if anyone does?

Or, have you seen yourself as a sinner and come to Christ *without one plea*? Do you know the Christ who came to die in the place of the undeserving? Are you depending on him to save you?

