

John 8: Who is Your Father? 05-08-16 PM

Much of John chapter 8 is a conversation about three fathers: God, Satan and Abraham. Abraham as our spiritual father is itself a fascinating subject; he alone of men stood in the place of God, being like God in that he was asked to sacrifice his only son of promise, Isaac. He is called the father of those who believe (Romans 4:11, etc). Many people speak about the Fatherhood of God and a Brotherhood of Humanity; they do so not appreciating that, according to John 8, not everyone is a spiritual child of God. All men are created by God in His image; we are all the OFFSPRING of God (Acts 17:28-29). Yet this chapter reveals that not everyone has God as their Father. Here is our question: who is YOUR Father?

What is the evidence that God is your Father? Jesus made it very simple in this case: *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me."* (John 8:42). So perhaps our question is more specific: Do You Love Jesus?

Question 1: Do You Trust Him (by living as though you believe in His promises)?
"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." John 14:1

Question 2: Do You Obey Him (by keeping His commandments)?
"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15

Question 3: Do You Enjoy Him (by enjoying the presence of His children and His word)?
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 1 John 5:1
Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. John 14:23

Question 4: Do You Speak About Him (to those around you)?
And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Acts 5:42

Question 5: Do You Suffer For Him (by a willingness to experience problems and inconveniences)?
Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2 Timothy 1:8,12

Question 6: Do You Emulate Him?
I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

Question 7: Do You Want to Please Him?
I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

Conclusions: Our relationship with our Father is through Jesus. That relationship is made by our love for Jesus, which is by His terms. You have the evidence to find out for yourself: is God your Father? *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.* Galatians 3:26-29