

True Family Resemblance

John 8:37-59

People examine photos of children, parents, and grandparents to compare physical characteristics. Does their nose or eyes look similar? Do they smile or walk the same way? Physical characteristics may be passed down from one generation to the next.

In John 8:37-59, Jesus points out that we reveal our spiritual ancestry through our attitudes and actions. *We reveal our spiritual ancestry by what we love, what we believe, and what we do.*

Physical ancestry ≠ spiritual ancestry (37-41)

While Jesus acknowledged his hearers were physical ancestors of Abraham, their desire to kill him revealed they were not spiritually related to Abraham (37).

Jesus alluded to the fact that his hearers were not spiritually related to Abraham as they claimed to be (38, 41).

Since the Jews did not act like Abraham did, they revealed they were not related to him at all (39-40).

The Jews refuted Jesus' claim by slandering his parentage (41).

Spiritual ancestry is revealed by what we love, what we believe, and what we do (42-47)

Those who claim God as Father will love his Son, Jesus (42).

Those who claim God as Father will believe God's Word (43, 47).

Jesus identified the Jews' spiritual father as the devil (44).

The Jews rejected Jesus because he told the truth (45).

No one can convict Jesus of sin because he was not guilty (46).

Spiritual ancestry is revealed by what we are against (48-59)

Since the Jews could not refute Jesus' challenge, they resorted to verbal abuse (48-49).

Jesus only sought the Father's glory, not his own (50).

Keeping Jesus' words is synonymous with believing in him (51).

Jesus was speaking of spiritual death, but the Jews thought he meant physical death (52).

By claiming to have the power to prevent spiritual death, Jesus was claiming to be greater than anyone who had died (53).

Rather than glorify himself, Jesus relied on God to give him glory (54).

Jesus identified these superficial believers as unbelievers (55).

Jesus pointed out that his hearers were related to Abraham only physically, not spiritually (56).

The Jews did not understand Jesus' meaning and disregarded it (57).

Jesus not only claimed preexistence, but deity as well (58).

The Jews clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be God and wanted to stone him (59).

Physical ancestry	Abraham	Abraham
Spiritual ancestry	Satan	God the Father
Attitude towards Jesus	Antagonism	Love
	Rejects deity	Acknowledges deity
View of Jesus' teaching	Doesn't believe	Believes
	Rejects & disobeys	Obeys

We reveal our ancestry by what we love, what we believe, and what we do.

We reveal our spiritual ancestry by our love for Jesus, our response to God's Word, and our obedience to God's commands.