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## God is Not a Universal Father

John 8:37-47

### I. The Ignorance of the Self-Righteous Man (vv. 37-41a)

- A. Self-righteousness \_\_\_\_\_ while grace regenerates (vv. 37-38) [Rom. 9:6-8; 2:28-29; Eph. 2:8]
  
- B. Self-righteousness \_\_\_\_\_ while faith works (v. 39)
  - 1. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God to the land that God showed him (Gen. 12:1-4)
  
  - 2. Abraham made \_\_\_\_\_ as instructed by the Lord (Gen. 15:7-10, 17-18)
  
  - 3. Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of the covenant (Gen. 17:1-2, 22-24)
  
  - 4. Abraham showed hospitality and \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (Gen. 18:1-8)
  
  - 5. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ God by being willing to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:1-3, 9-12)

C. Self-righteousness \_\_\_\_\_ down while truth builds up (vv. 40-41a) [Matt. 23:37; Psa. 118:22; Eph. 2:20; 4:15]

### II. The Incomprehension of the Natural Man (vv. 41b-43)

- A. God is \_\_\_\_\_ every Jew's Father (v. 41b) [Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:35; Ex. 4:22; Jer. 31:9; Gal. 3:7-9]
  
- B. God is the Father of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (v. 42) [Jn. 10:30; 14:9, 21, 23]
  
- C. God is the Father of those who \_\_\_\_\_ and obey (v. 43) [Jn. 7:17; Jer. 6:10; 1 Cor. 2:14]

### III. The Insanity of the Follower of Satan (vv. 44-47)

- A. The devil is the father of those who \_\_\_\_\_ his desire (v. 44) [Rom. 5:12; 1 Pet. 5:8; Jn. 10:10; Gen. 3:4; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 21:8]
  
- B. The devil is the father of those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (vv. 45-46) [2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Cor. 2:11; 4:4]
  
- C. The devil is the father of those who are \_\_\_\_\_ of God (v. 47) [Jn. 10:25-28]

### TAKE HOME

- Are you \_\_\_\_\_ the works Abraham did?
  
- Do you listen to the words of Christ and put them into \_\_\_\_\_?
  
- Do you \_\_\_\_\_ the truth and invite the truth into your life?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 8:37-38. Why did the Jews think they were going to get into heaven? How does Romans 9:6-8; Romans 2:28-29; and Ephesians 2:8 correct that kind of thinking?

2. Read John 8:39. As you review the life of Abraham from the book of Genesis, which one of his “works” encourages you or challenges you the most? Why?

3. Read John 8:40-41a. What did Jesus do to make the Jews so mad that they would kill him? How does Jesus feel about the Jews in Matthew 23:37? How does Psa. 118:22 and Eph. 2:20 help us see who Jesus is?

4. Read John 8:41b-43. Why can’t the Jews hear what Jesus is saying? How does John 17:7; Jeremiah 6:10; and 1 Corinthians 2:14 help us see this more clearly?

5. Read John 8:44. Why is Jesus so blunt here? Is this helpful? Are there times we need to be as blunt? How was Satan a murderer and a liar from the beginning?

6. Read John 8:45-46. Why don’t some people believe? (2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Cor. 2:11; 4:4) What can we do about it if anything?

7. Read John 8:47. What is this verse saying? How does John 10:25-28 fit in? How many fathers are there? To which one do you belong?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? How will you live differently this week based on this passage?

*“The devil, then, is the very wellspring of lies, the creator of falsehoods. When he lies, he is original. When he does not lie, he quotes or even plagiarizes; but even then he gives the borrowed words a false setting, in order to create an illusion. He ever strives to lie and deceive, and this he does in order to murder.”*

- William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary on John*