

Study Guide for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Like Father, Like Son. John 8:31-47

Introduction: Describe a father / son pair that show a strong resemblance one with another. Now describe a father / son pair who display similar character qualities.

I. Freedom through the Son. John 8:31-36.

A. Who is Jesus addressing? How would describe their faith in light of what follows?

B. Fill in the blanks and then reflect on what these words of Jesus reveal about faith.

“If you \_\_\_\_\_ to my \_\_\_\_\_, you are really my \_\_\_\_\_.  
Then you will know the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ will set you \_\_\_\_\_.”

C. Relate John 8:31b-32 (above) to what Jesus says in John 7:17 & 15:10

D. What claims do Jesus’ listeners make? How do they understand freedom?

E. How does Jesus define slavery? What (who) is the key to liberation?

F. In what do people take pride in today that blinds them to their spiritual bondage?

II. Conviction by the Son. John 8:37-47

A. In what sense does Jesus concede that his listeners are indeed Abraham’s lineage?

B. How should those who claim to be Abraham’s descendants act?

1) Luke 3:7-9:

2) Rom. 2:28-29:

3) Rom. 9:6-9:

C. But how are Jesus’ opponents acting? What inconsistency does Jesus expose?

D. Based on their actions, what does Jesus claim about the identity of their father?

E. According to Jesus, what is the devil like and how does he act?

F. How does Jesus account for the unbelief of these Jewish opponents?

G. Relate the inability of Jesus listeners to hear his word (vs. 43 & 47) to . . .

1) John 6:44:

2) John 10:14-16:

3) John 10:25-30:

H. “Love for Christ is the infallible mark of all true children of God” (J.C. Ryle) What might others cite as the distinguishing characteristic of a genuine believer in Christ?