

John 8:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Analysis

Christ's stark declaration that unbelieving Jews are 'of your father the devil' shocks modern readers but reveals spiritual paternity—children resemble their father. The devil is a 'murderer from the beginning' (referencing Cain and ultimately all death through sin) and the 'father of lies'. This establishes two families: God's children who love truth, and Satan's children who embrace lies. The harsh language shows the seriousness of rejecting Christ.

Historical Context

Jews claimed Abraham as father (v. 39); Jesus says spiritual lineage is proven by deeds, not genetics (v. 39-40). This challenged first-century Judaism's assumption that Abrahamic descent guaranteed God's favor.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do your attitudes and actions reveal whether you are God's child or still in darkness?
2. Why is it important to understand there are only two spiritual families?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς ἐκ πατὴρ τοῦ διαβόλου ἐστὲ καὶ τὰς ἐπιθυμίας
Ye of father the devil are and the lusts
G5210 G1537 G3962 G3588 G1228 G2075 G2532 G3588 G1939

τοῦ πατὴρ ὑμῶν θέλετε ποιεῖν ἐκεῖνος ἀνθρωποκτόνος
father of your ye will do He a murderer
G3588 G3962 G5216 G2309 G4160 G1565 G443

ἦν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐν τῇ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστηκεν
was from the beginning and in the truth no abide
G2258 G575 G746 G2532 G1722 G3588 G225 G3756 G2476

ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλήθεια ἐν αὐτῷ ὅταν λαλεῖ τὸ
because no he is the truth in him When he speaketh G3588
G3754 G3756 G2076 G225 G1722 G846 G3752 G2980

ψεῦδος ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων λαλεῖ ὅτι ψεύστης ἔστιν
a lie of his own he speaketh because a liar he is
G5579 G1537 G3588 G2398 G2980 G3754 G5583 G2076

καὶ ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ
and G3588 father him
G2532 G3962 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:10 (Evil): And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

1 John 3:12 (Evil): Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (Parallel theme): But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Revelation 12:9 (Evil): And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

John 8:38 (Parallel theme): I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

John 8:41 (Parallel theme): Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

1 John 3:15 (Parallel theme): Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Matthew 13:38 (Evil): The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Jude 1:6 (Parallel theme): And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

1 John 2:4 (Truth): He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.