

John 8:31-47
Jesus Speaks About God's True Children

Pastor Vernie Fletcher
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[31] To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*

[32] *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

[33] They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

[34] Jesus replied, *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*

[35] *Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.*

[36] *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

[37] *I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.*

[38] *I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father."*

[39] "Abraham is our father," they answered.

"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.

[40] *As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.*

[41] *You are doing the things your own father does."*

"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

[42] Jesus said to them, *“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.*

[43] *Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.*

[44] *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

[45] *Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!*

[46] *Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth why don’t you believe me?*

[47] *He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”*