

## **A SPIRITUAL PATERNITY TEST**

**(1 John 3:1-2)**

- I. It begins with the new birth (John 3:3-5).**
  - a. When Nicodemus came to Jesus, he wanted to find out who had sent Jesus.
  - b. Jesus knew that Nicodemus did not need that conversation, but he did need one about how to be in the kingdom of heaven.
  - c. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again.
    - i. Jesus said there were two elements to the being born again process.
    - ii. He needed to be born of water and the Spirit.
  - d. Paul describes it this way in Titus 3:5.
  - e. This is the process of being baptized in water by the inspired teaching of the Holy Spirit.
  - f. One becomes a new creature when He is in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and one gets into Christ by baptism (Galatians 3:27).
  - g. By the way, did you notice that this is how we become the children of God?
  - h. Those things that are born of the flesh cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 15:50).
  - i. If you've never been baptized into Christ, God is not your spiritual Father.
- II. Are you led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14)?**
  - a. This is a very plain statement.
  - b. One must be led by the Spirit and not his own desires in order to be a child of God.
  - c. To be led by the Spirit is to be led by His teaching which is found in the Bible.
    - i. The Psalmist understood this long ago (Psalm 119:105).
    - ii. God's word is our guide and tells us how we should live our lives.
  - d. One who is driven by his/her own desires is not living by the Spirit but by the flesh (Galatians 5:17-25).
  - e. What is governing your thoughts and actions?
  - f. This goes a long way in showing who is your spiritual Father.
- III. Do you accept correction from God (Hebrews 12:7)?**
  - a. I like the music of Eric Church.
    - i. However, there is one song that he sings that shows a complete lack of understanding of what it means to be a child of God.
    - ii. It's called "Sinners Like Me" and it deals with how he lives his life.
    - iii. In it, he says that he and Jesus have things worked out already so it excuses the sins of his life.
  - b. God has a plan for the life of the child of His and it has to do with following His will and, when we don't we need correction.
  - c. It has nothing to do with living how we want to live and not being corrected.

- d. A good father, despite what the world thinks or does, is one who does not allow his children to do as they please.
  - i. A good father disciplines his child in a proper way to bring about right behavior.
  - ii. This is understood in scripture (Hebrews 12:9).
- e. God is a good Father, therefore He corrects His children so that they will live lives that bring Him glory and honor.

**IV. Do you love Jesus (John 8:42)?**

- a. Those Jews who thought they were of Abraham's seed, thereby being God's children, found out that God was not their Father because they did not love His Son.
- b. How do we show that we love Jesus (John 14:15)?
  - i. Doing what Jesus has commanded us shows God we love His Son.
  - ii. It is the same way with our earthly parents: we show we love them by being obedient to them.
- c. It is not a matter of being obedient when we want either.
  - i. All the commands of the Lord must be obeyed.
  - ii. John 15:14.

From an article by Billy Alexander