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.

From an article by Billy Alexander