

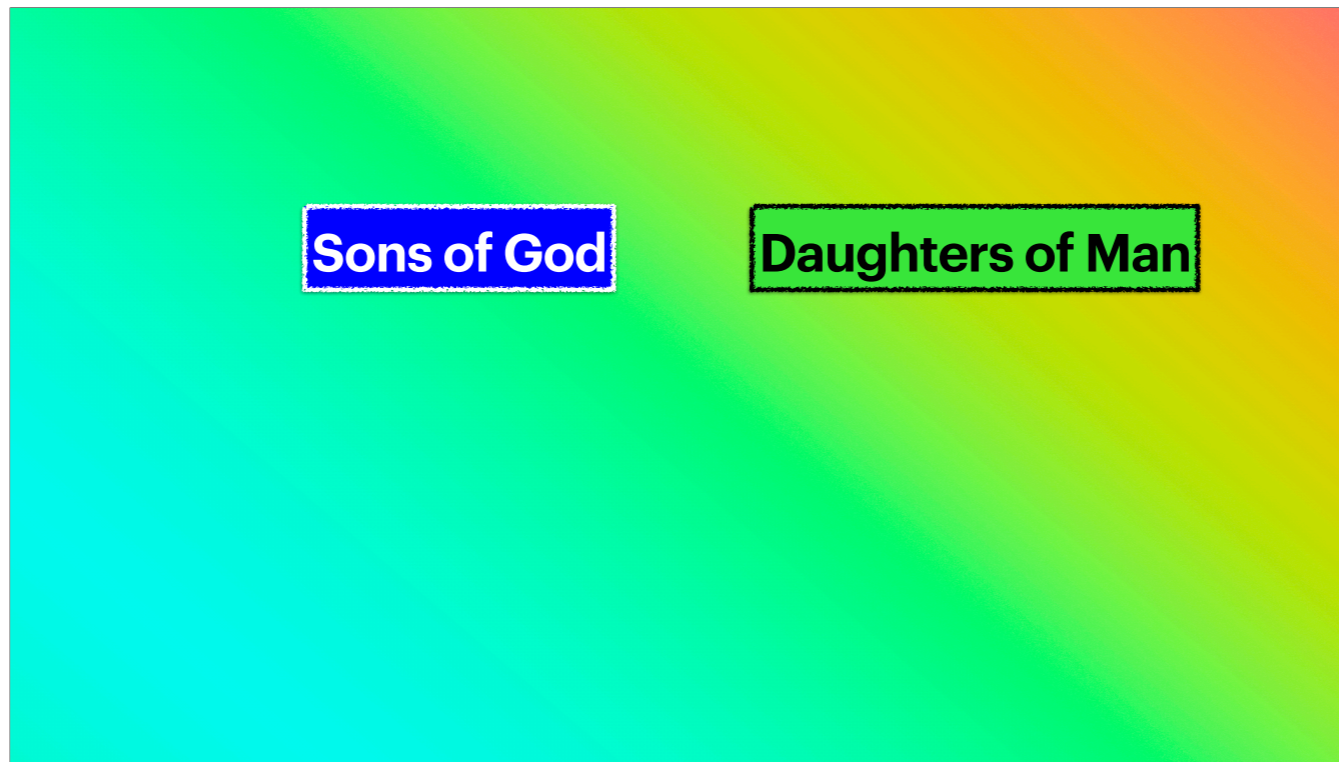
# Who Is Your Father?

John 8:31-47

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Genesis 6:4

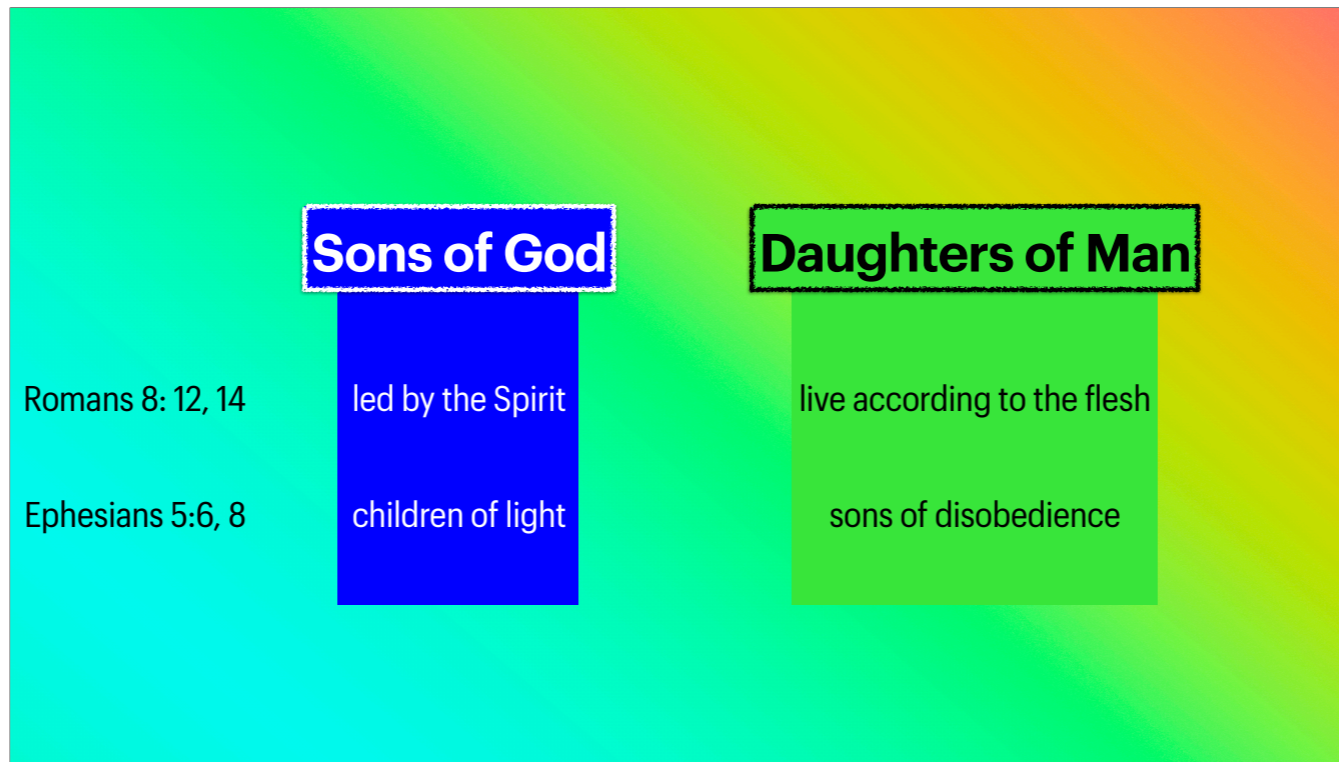
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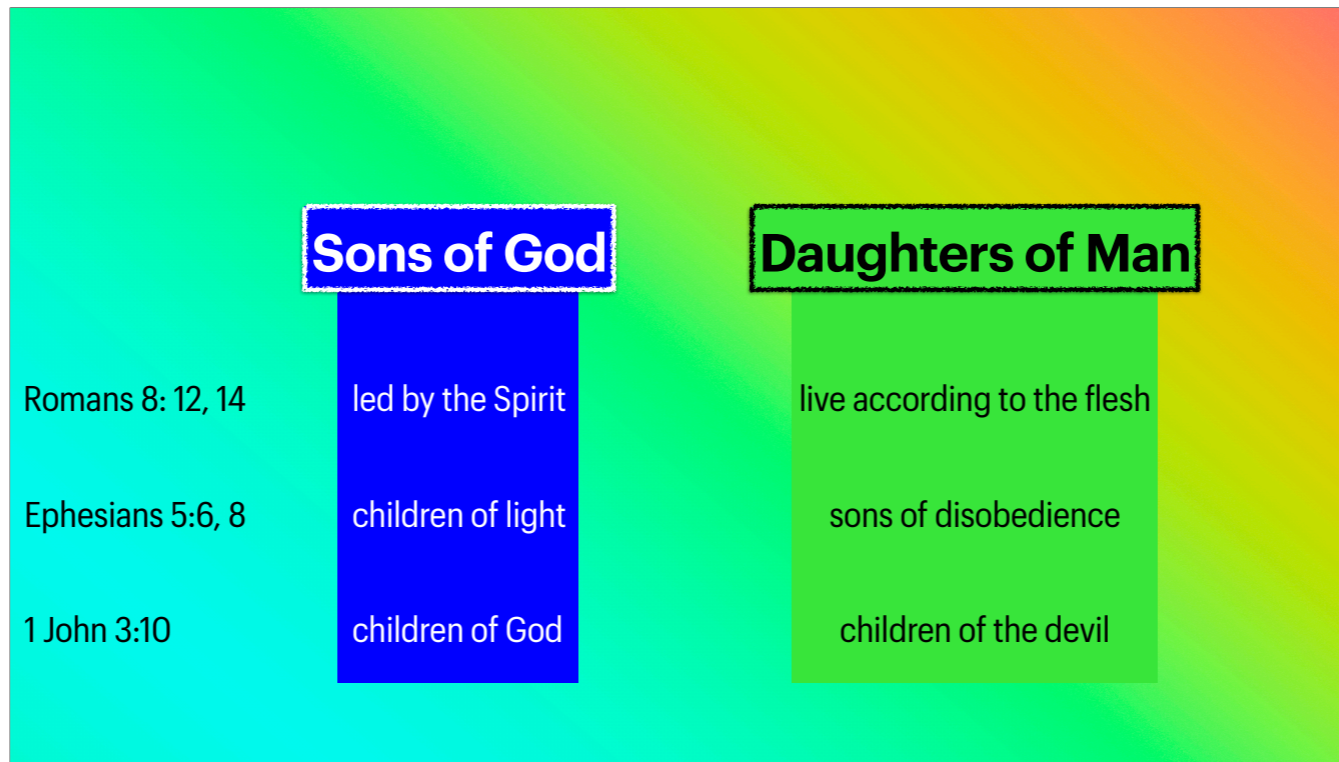
- Although very old, this distinction between those who are sons of God and those who are daughters of man is still prevalent.



✓ Romans 8: led by the Spirit vs. live according to the flesh



▼ Ephesians 5: children of light v. sons of disobedience



- 1 John 3: Children of God v. children of the devil
- Does anyone actually think they are a child of the devil?

# Children of the Devil

- Children of the Devil
  - Usually reserved for the really wicked: Stalin, Hitler, Mass murderers
  - Anton LeVay

# Children of the Devil

**Cain**

not like Cain who was of the evil one  
1 John 3:12

- 1 John 3:11-12: 11 For this is the gospel message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another, 12 not like Cain who was of the evil one and brutally murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, but his brother's were righteous.



## Children of the Devil

**Judas**

Didn't I choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is the devil?  
(Now he said this about Judas)

John 6:70-71

- John 6:70-71: 70 Jesus replied, "Didn't I choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is the devil?" 71 (Now he said this about Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for Judas, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.)

## Children of the Devil

**Peter**

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!"  
Matthew 16:23

- Matthew 16:23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

# Children of the Devil

**Elymas**

You son of the devil  
Acts 13:10

- Paul of Elymas
- Acts 13:10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?”

## Children of the Devil

Cain

Judas

Peter

Elymas

- Did any of these think that they were children of the devil?
  - (Probably not)
- Maybe they recognized that they weren't great? or they were doing wrong?
- And Peter probably thought he was doing what was best.



Who is your father?

Who is your father?

## Who is your father?

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,  
“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,  
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”  
John 8:31-32

- John 8:31-32 (ESV) 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”



- 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”
- 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.
  - 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.
  - 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**Jesus**

everyone who practices  
sin is a slave to sin

Son sets you free

you seek to kill me because  
my word finds no place in you

you do what you have  
heard from your father

**Jews**

Offspring of Abraham

- 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet **you seek to kill me** because my word finds no place in you.
- 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”



**Jesus**

if Abraham's children,  
you would be doing the  
works Abraham did

**Jews**

Abraham is our father.

- ✓ John 8:39-41 (ESV) 39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father."
- Jesus said to them,
  - "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,
    - Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
    - Galatians 3:26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith.
    - Galatians 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

**Jesus**

if Abraham's children,  
you would be doing the  
works Abraham did

you seek to kill me

This is not what Abraham did

You are doing the works  
your father did.

**Jews**

Abraham is our father.

- ✓ 40 but now **you seek to kill me**,
- a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.
- This is not what Abraham did.
  - Abraham heard ... and acted on what God told him.
- 41 You are doing the works your father did.”
  - Most of us know where this is going ... but they didn't.

**Jesus**

If God were your father  
you would love me

you cannot bear to  
hear my word

You are of your father the devil

**Jews**

We have one father —  
even God

- John 8:41-47 (ESV) They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”
- 42 Jesus said to them,
  - “If God were your Father, you would love me,
  - for I came from God and I am here.
  - I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.
- 43 Why do you not understand what I say?
  - It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.
- 44 You are of your father the devil,

**Jesus**

You are of your father the devil  
your will is to do your father's  
desires: murderer & liar  
because I tell the truth, why  
do you not believe me  
Whoever is of God hears  
the words of God  
You are not of God

**Jews**

We have one father —  
even God

- ✓ 44 You are of your father the devil,
  - and your will is to do your father's desires.
    - He was a murderer from the beginning,
    - and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.
    - When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.
  - 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin?
  - If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?
  - 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God.
  - The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

## Who is your father?

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,  
“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,  
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”  
John 8:31-32

- It's amazing how easy it is for us to fool ourselves into thinking we are children of God when we are not.
- This is not a statement about those “in the world”, the context speaks of those who believe in Jesus!
- We demonstrate who our father is by how we treat God and by how we live
  - Do I honor God?
  - Do I follow in his ways? (Character, not just obedience)

# Who is your father?

## Children of the Devil

my word finds no place in you

do what you have seen from your father

your will is to do your father's desires

### Those who are children of the devil

- my word finds no place in you (37)
  - They refused to really hear. To really understand.
  - They thought they knew the truth, but they refused to accept it.
  - Do you? Do you think you know?
- you do what you have seen from your father (38)
  - (murderer and liar)
  - seek to kill Jesus
- your will is to do your father's desires (44)

# Who is your father?

## Children of the Devil

my word finds no place in you  
do what you have seen from your father  
your will is to do your father's desires

## Children of God

abide in God's word  
know the truth  
do the works Abraham did  
stand in the truth


- Those who are children of God (like Abraham)
  - Abide in God's Word
    - God's word finds a place in you (37)
    - hears the words of God (47)
  - Know the truth
  - Do the works Abraham did
    - Faith
    - Obedience (Hebrews 11)
  - 44) stand in the truth



Who is your father?

Who is your father?





We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

# Who Is Your Father?

John 8:31-47

Synopsis: Exploring the struggle we have with knowing if we are really children of God or not.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."