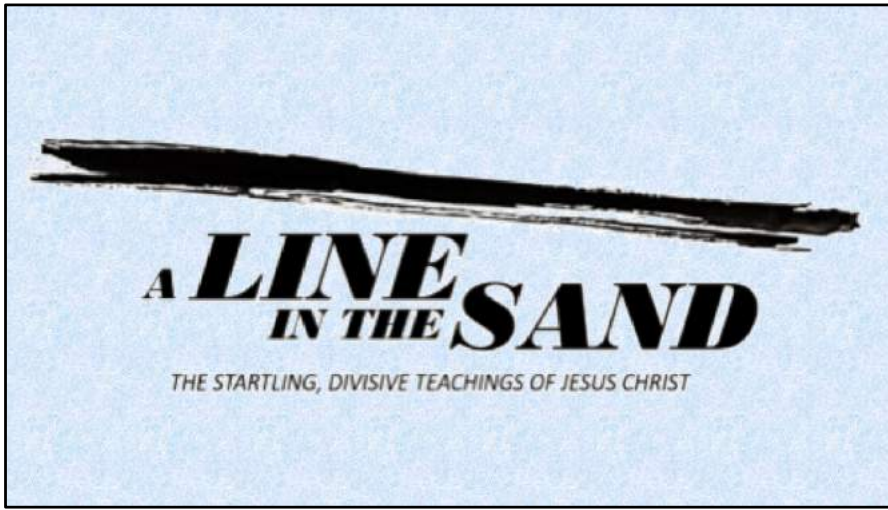


**“You’re just like
your father!”**

“You’re just like your father!”

-- that can be a compliment OR it can be what really pushes our buttons because we really don’t want to be like our dad or perhaps our mom.

TR: But, when Jesus said something similar it was . . .



... an ultimate line in the sand.
TR: When Jesus said it, He said ...

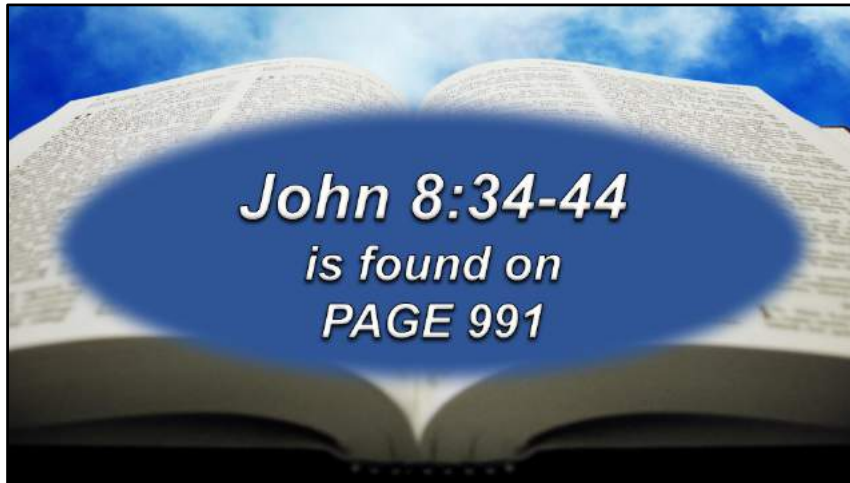
**“You are of your
father the devil”**

“You are of your father the devil.”

-- Cf. the Amish schoolhouse and the Mennonite teacher who called the kids, “little devils,” on what would be her last day of teaching. What she said was that offensive to the parents.

-- And, I’m sure that the Jews of the first century weren’t OK with being called the devil’s kids, either.

TR: Let’s grab our Bibles and see what this line in the sand is all about . . .



John 8:34-44
is found on
PAGE 991

. . . first, turning to READ SLIDE

-- Sermon Notes

TR: Jesus, in the context, teaches about His heavenly Father and how He was sent to set people free by the truth.

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

5

But the Jews, proud and confident of their lineage back to Abraham, sneer at Him and ask, “How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

-- It is this context in which Jesus again intentionally offends . .

**.
-- He intentionally draws a line in the sand, leaving only two sides . . . a clear choice for all of us to make.**

TR: Let’s begin reading in verse 34 . . .

John 8:34-36

6

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 37 continues . . .

John 8:37-38

7

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

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus says, You're just like you father . . .

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

- *in his **Words***

. . . in his words.

-- In other words, they have been listening to devil.

TR: Verse 39 continues . . .

John 8:39-41a

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, ⁴⁰but 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. ⁴¹You are **doing the works your father did.**"

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: You're just like your father . . .

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

- *in his Words*
- *in his **Works***

. . . in his works.

-- You’ve apprenticed his practices, just like most sons would have followed in their dad’s footsteps in the first century.

-- If dad was a fisherman, they would have become one. If dad was a carpenter, they too would have worked with wood and stone.

TR: The middle of verse 41 continues . . .

They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴²Jesus 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.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

- This is a slam against Jesus' lineage . . . suggesting that many knew that Mary was with child before she had married Joseph.
 - Isn't that how it often works . . . someone confronts us and we fight and claw right back.
 - Jesus questions who their father is, not Abraham or God . . . and they scowl at Him and suggest he was conceived in sin.
- TR: Verse 43 continues . . .

John 8: 43-44a

“Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and **your will is to do your father's desires.**”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The comparison to dear old dad is complete . . .

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

- *in his Words*
- *in his Works*
- *in his **Will** (desires)*

. . . they are like him in his words, in his works, and even in their desires to please him . . . to do his will.

-- “You are just like the devil . . . to whom you are intimately related!” -- now, that’s a line in the sand.

TR: Jesus doesn’t stop there. In the second part of verse 44 we read . . .

“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.**”

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- When Jesus says “the devil’s your daddy” he’s saying that they are . . .

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

- *specifically, he’s a murderer and liar*
- *he won’t stand in the truth
because there is no **truth** in him*

murderers and liars.

-- They are against both love and the truth.

-- The devil won’t stand in the truth because there is no truth in him

-- YET, they have been listening to his words, watching his works, and desiring his will.

TR: EVEN THOUGH the devil’s character is . . .

**“YOU’RE JUST LIKE YOUR
FATHER!”**

- *specifically, he’s a murderer and liar*
- *he won’t stand in the truth
because there is no truth in him*
- *he lies because his character is as
a father of **lies***

. . . one of lying . . . he is the father of lies.

**TR: Why does Jesus draw such a divisive line in the sand,
because they don’t understand the nature of the universe and
often we don’t either.**

**“There is no neutral ground
in the universe.**

**Every square inch, every split second
is claimed by God,
and counterclaimed by Satan.”**

As C.S. Lewis said . . . READ SLIDE

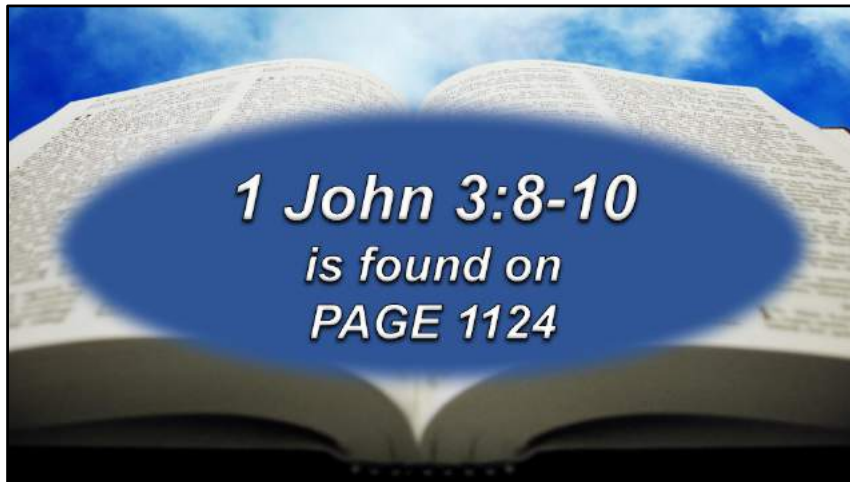
-- But we imagine that there is a huge scale, on one end there are evil people who are Satan’s spawn. On the other end are the few holy saints, who look at everything with their heavenly Father’s eyes . . . they have their father’s eyes, so to speak.

-- YET that is not what Jesus presents . . . there is a line that no one can stand on. We are on one side or the other.

-- Like a level . . . there is one spot where it is level or plumb . . . not a whole range of spots.

-- We are in a war . . . RE-READ SLIDE

TR: This line in the sand must have made some impression on the beloved disciple, John.



When we look at his first letter, 1st John, we find similarities that suggest he may have been thinking back to this startling moment.

-- We read “from the beginning” and “of the devil” in both texts.

TR: Ponder with me and with John about how we should respond to this line in the sand that makes our heads jerk up to attention.

**“YOU’RE OF (YOUR FATHER)
THE DEVIL!”**

19

**This is the second point in our sermon notes.
TR: Begin in 1 John 3:8 . . .**

1 John 3:8

20

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

ESV

READ SLIDE
TR: Verse 9 . . .

1 John 3:9

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Notice that it doesn't say someone born of God doesn't ever sin but rather, someone who has crossed the line of faith cannot make a practice of sinning . . .

**“YOU’RE OF (YOUR FATHER)
THE DEVIL!”**

- *the practice of sinning = to **keep** on sinning*

. . . that is, the practice of sinning is to “keep on sinning.”
-- This is referring to flagrant, intentional, willful disobedience to God. What the OT calls “the sin of the high hand.”
-- This is why Matthew 18’s steps of loving discipline can end up with the unrepentant person being called a tax collector and Gentile . . . because they have made a practice of sinning and therefore are giving evidence that they’ve never been born again.

TR: Look back at the text, verse 10 . . .

1 John 3:10

By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever **does not practice righteousness** is not of God, nor is the one who **does not love his brother**.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The evident evidence of who our daddy is seen in our practices . . . what we just called our words, works, and will.

TR: Here the evidence is what is missing . . . sins of omission .

..

**“YOU’RE OF (YOUR FATHER)
THE DEVIL!”**

- *the practice of sinning = to keep on sinning*
- *the omission of practicing righteousness*
- *the omission of **loving** our brothers and sisters*

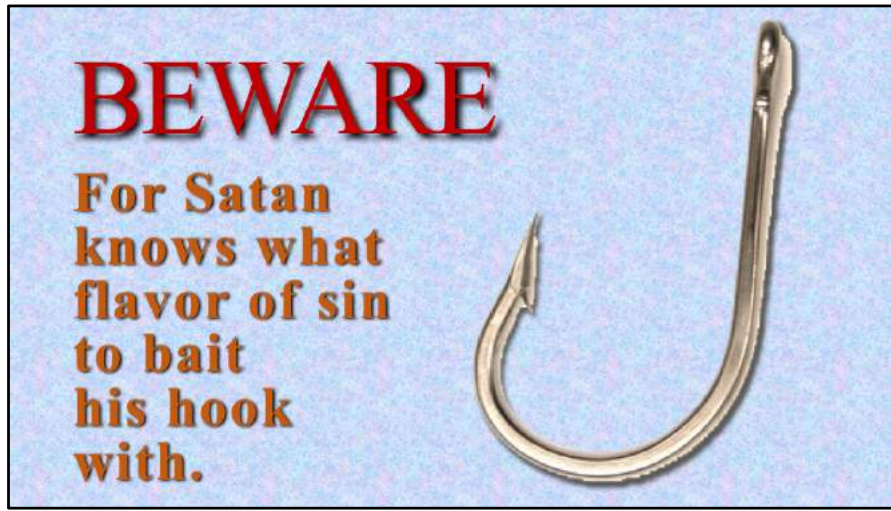
First, the omission of practicing righteousness – doing the truth, rejoicing with the truth.

-- AND, the absence of loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is the other evidence that we have not been born again.

-- If you’ve been with us through the series, we seen various versions of this line in the sand before.

-- Active, practical love is what will come forth from a true believer . . . not perfectly, but with evident progress.

TR: John writes his first letter in such a way that anyone familiar with his gospel account would have recalled the words of Jesus. Why does he do this?



Because he wants us to understand that we are in a war and that we need to be aware, that is, “beware.”

-- It is easy for us to say we are the children of God, but if we play fast and loose with truth and love, as liars and murderers in Jesus’ words, then we’ve taken the devil’s bait.

TR: This line in the sand, calling the devil someone’s father, could be devastating, if not for the hope we find in both of these passages penned by John. Did you see it?

*"YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER!"
"YOU'RE OF (YOUR FATHER) THE DEVIL!"*

**BUT YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE LIKE HIM**

We don't have to be like the devil, who, in one sense, is the father of all who have not been born again into the family of God.

TR: Think back to the passages, first the John 8 text . . .

John 8:34-36

27

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The 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.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The Son of God has come to . . .

**BUT YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE LIKE HIM**

- Jesus came to set us **free**

. . . set us free.

-- In the context we see that it is the truth that sets us free . . . believing what is true about Jesus' person and work.

-- Spiritual warfare is a truth encounter, more so than a power encounter.

-- The devil can use well-intentioned dragons to teach us principles and practices that go beyond God's Word . . . and we then make them our guides and justification to do what we do .

. . or not do what we should do.

-- Jesus, the truth incarnate, came to set us free.

TR: And then, from the 1 John text . . .

1 John 3:8

29

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus came to . . .

**BUT YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE LIKE HIM**

- Jesus came to set us free
- Jesus came to **destroy** the devil's works

. . . destroy the works of the devil.

-- If we have truly been born again, we need not fear the devil.

Our Lord and Master has defeated him and will someday return to radically destroy him by sending him to the pit.

TR: SO, on this father's day, our question is . . .

**WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
WHO'S YOUR FATHER?**

***Let's heed Jesus'
line in the sand!***

READ SLIDE (first two lines)

-- And if you claim God as your father . . . let's heed Jesus' line in the sand.

-- Remember, the Jews claimed Abraham and God as their fathers . . . but God has no grandchildren . . . only children who personally place their own hope and trust in His Son.

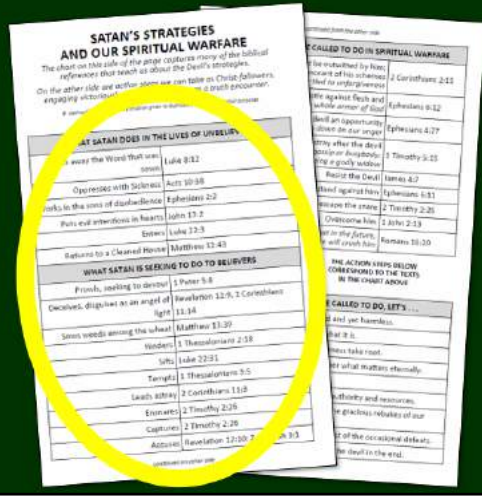
-- I want to end our time with a little bonus . . . that comes out of me considering what the devil is like and what he is doing . . . his words, works, and will.

-- This was spurred on by my conversation with Andy G and Vishal D this week . . . describing dealing with demon possessed men being brought to them by the Hindus who can do nothing for them. Men who have given themselves over to the idolatry of greed and pleasure.

TR: We may think that the Devil only has kids down in South

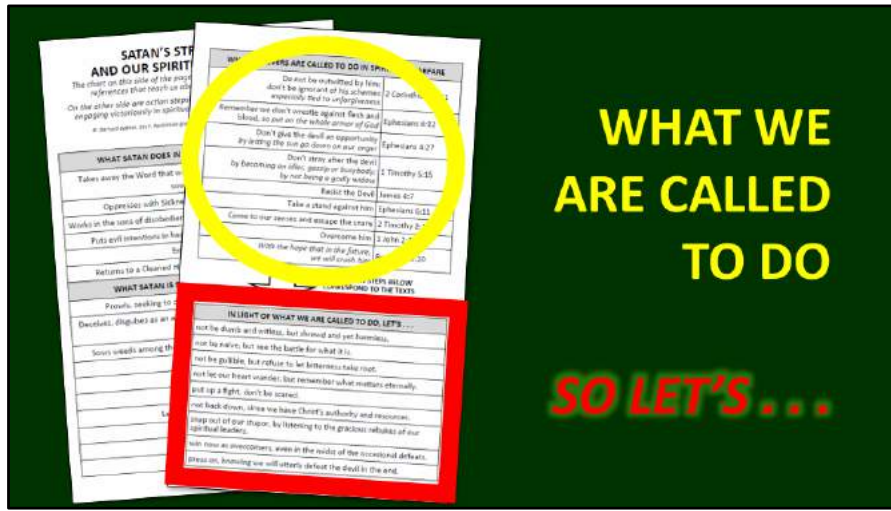
**America, or that spiritual warfare is only happening
“elsewhere.” But I want to remind you . . .**

SATAN IS WORKING



. . . as we see on the handout in your worship flier, you'll find . . .

- . READ TITLE
- Side one captures that Satan works in the lives of unbelievers AND believers. I'll leave it to you to look up the passages on your own.
- TR: Side two brings us to our action steps . . .



- . . . includes the top chart of the texts I collected that tell us many of the things we are to do in spiritual warfare.
- I then rewrote the top chart into action steps I know God, the Father of believers, is calling us to live out.
 - Would you please look over the list and consider them with me, though very briefly . . . READ THROUGH BOTTOM CHART.
 - I especially want to challenge dads . . . take up the sword and shield as many of you have promised to do when you dedicated your children . . .
 - We protect our kids by installing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, we buy cars with air bags, we may even by a gun . . . but we don't put on the whole armor of God . . . we are dumb, witless, naïve, gullible, letting our hearts wander, scared into backing down, walking in a spiritual stupor, letting our

defeats make us defeatists, and acting like we aren't on the winning side . . . it's time to be men of God, men who have stepped over the line of faith and practice.

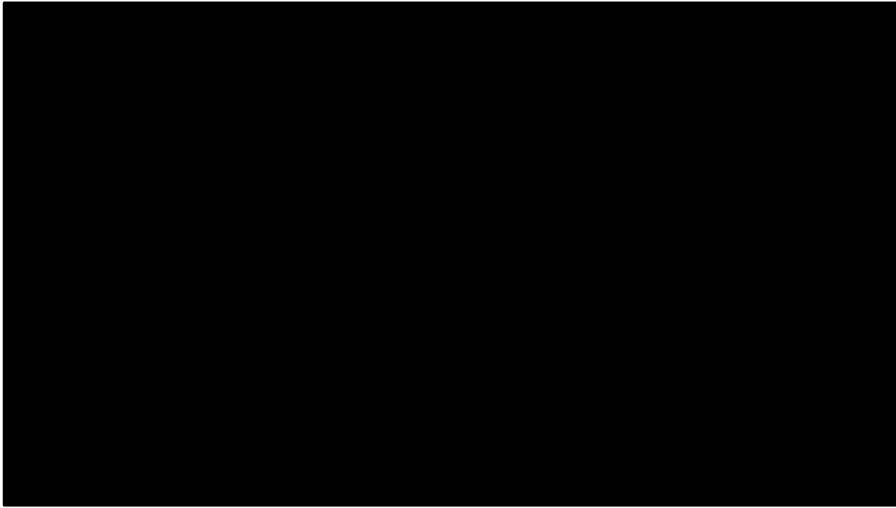
TR: And as we approach the communion table . . .

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



**The reason the Son of God appeared
was to destroy the works of the devil.**

. . . won't you celebrate with me that . . . READ SLIDE



END SLIDE (Blank)