

The Identity of the Son of God

John 5:19-29

September 4, 2022

1. The Unity of Father and Son (19-24)

a. The activity of the Son is entirely defined by the activity of the Father (19)

i. Negative Assertion: "The Son can do nothing of himself except what he seeth the Father do"

ii. Positive Assertion: "For what things soever he doeth these also doeth the son likewise"

1. Whatever the Father does, Jesus does in the same way.

2. Jesus is both the revelation of God (1:18) as well as the agent of God (5:17).

b. The Explanations of this Unity (20-24)

i. Explanation #1

1. Father and Son are united in the same love: "For the Father loveth the Son" (20a).

a. The ministry of Jesus is rooted in and empowered by the love of the Father.

b. The Father continually loves the Son.

2. Father and Son are united in the same work (20b).

a. Consequence 1: the present work of God in the world – "and sheweth him all things that himself doeth".

b. Consequence 2: the future work of God in the world – "and he will show him greater works than these"

3. Result: "that ye may marvel"

a. These works will cause extraordinary amazement

b. The Jews had disassociated Jesus' work from the work of His Father (5:17).

c. Jesus' challenge to the lame man exposed his unbelief (5:14).

ii. Explanation #2: "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will" (21)

1. Jesus' freedom to restore life is rooted in the life-giving nature of God, the One Who has the power to take life and give life (cf. Deut. 32:39; 1 Sam 2:6; 2 Kings 5:7).

2. Jesus gives life "just as" the Father gives life.

3. Jesus gives life as He wills, which shows the unity of Jesus' will with the Father's will.

iii. Explanation #3: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (22-23)

1. The Father has given all judgment to the Son.

a. Though the Son was not sent to condemn the world, He has already begun to judge those who refuse to believe in Him (cf. 3:17-18).

b. The Father has made Jesus the Savior of sinners, and the Judge of sinners.

2. Purpose: "That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father" (23a)

a. We are to honor the Son just as we honor the Father.

b. Father and Son are different in function, but equal in honor.

3. Application: "He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (23b)

a. If we do not understand the nature of the Son, we will not understand the nature of the Father.

b. To know Jesus is to know God; to dishonor Jesus is to dishonor God.

c. 20:31 "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

c. The Accepted Response (24)

i. Hear His Word and believe on the One that sent Him: "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me" (24a)

1. Responding to the word of Jesus is also believing in God the Father.

2. The healed man and the Jews adamantly rejected Jesus' claim to the Son of God (cf. 18)

3. By refusing to hear Jesus, they refused to hear God.

ii. Receive His Life: "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (24b).

1. Those who believe HAVE everlasting life.

2. Since believers have eternal life, they will not come under judgment, because they've already passed from death to life!

3. Those who refuse to believe, remain in darkness under the judgment of Christ (cf. 3:18).

2. The Sufficiency of the Son (25-29)

- a. The hour of the Son of God – “Verily, Verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live” (25).
 - i. The hour is both future and present.
 - ii. The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.
 - iii. It is significant that Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of God, highlighting His union with the Father.
- b. Life from the Son of God – “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself” (26)
 - i. This verse builds upon the life that the Son gives to those who believe on Him (21).
 - ii. The Life that the Son of God provides comes directly from the life of God, both God the Father and God the Son.
 - iii. Life is in the Son, and the Son manifests and imparts life to humanity.
- c. Authority of the Son of God – “And he has given authority to him to make judgment, because he is the Son of Man” (27).
 - i. This verse expands upon the judgment given to the Son in verse 22.
 - ii. The Father has given the Son the authority to make judgment; as much as life and judgment involve the Father, the practice of giving life and judgment belongs to the Son.
 - iii. In verses 19-21 Jesus declares Who He is, and in verses 22-27 Jesus declares what belongs to Him.
 - iv. The reason this authority has been given to Him is “because he is the Son of Man.”
 - v. Daniel 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and an kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”
- d. The Proof of the Son of God – “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto resurrection of damnation.” (28-29).
 - i. Jesus prophecies of a future hour that will provide credibility concerning the life and judgment that belongs to Him, an hour in which “all that are in the grave shall hear his voice”, the voice of the Son.
 1. This will be proof that judgment and life belong to Jesus, the Son of Man.
 2. Just as a dying boy from far off Capernaum heard the healing voice of Jesus, and a lam man’s legs hear the command to rise, so also will the dead in their graves respond to the voice of Christ.
 3. Daniel 12:1-2 “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of they people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”
 4. All the dead will come forth, proving that the life that they possess belongs to the Son Who calls them forth.
 - ii. This is followed by 2 resurrections, proving the authority to judge them also belongs to the Son Who calls them forth.
 1. Those who have done good will be resurrected to life.
 2. Those who have done evil will be resurrected to damnation.
 3. 6:28-29 “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**”

Conclusion:

1. Are you honoring the Son? You honor the Son by hearing His Word and believing.
2. Do you have confidence that you have eternal life, that you are no longer under condemnation?
3. Belief in God is not enough; you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, equal with God, the giver of Life and judgment.
4. Whose works are you trusting? Your own, or the sufficient work of the Son of God?