

John 5

Sunday, March 16, 2025 8:00 AM

JESUS EXPLAINS HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. (**John 5:19-20 ESV**)

So Jesus said to them: In this extended discussion Jesus explained to the religious leaders some of the nature of His relationship and work with God the Father. Because of this, we have a lot of information on the relationship between God the Father and God the Son.

the Son can do nothing of his own accord: Jesus explained that He, as God the Son, does nothing independently. He was and is fully submitted to the Father's will. This submission comes by choice, not by coercion or by an inferior nature. Relevant to the Sabbath controversy discussed in the previous verses, this was Jesus' way of telling the religious leaders that He did not tell the healed man to carry his bed on His own authority; He did it in complete submission to God the Father in heaven.

"The Father is not passive in the matter, merely allowing Jesus to discover what He can of the Father's will; but the Father shows Him." (**Dods**)

Some people think of a great difference — or even a small difference — between God the Father and God the Son, as if God the Father emphasized judgment and God the Son emphasized love. Sometimes they think the same way over what they call the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. This thinking is wrong; it usually comes from refusing to see the display of love in God the Father, or the display of righteousness in God the Son.

"He is explaining also, by inference, the mystery of the Incarnation — that God The Son in becoming Man ceased not to be God, and that the Personality of Jesus is the Personality of God The Son." (**Trench**)

For the Father loves the Son: The relationship between the First and Second members of the Trinity is not one of master and slave, not of employer and employee, but of Father and Son, united by love.

And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel: The religious leaders were stunned by what Jesus told the formerly paralyzed man to do. Jesus here told them that they would see even greater works, ones that would make them marvel. (**Guzik**)

"I believe there is still another dimension to our Lord's words. The thrust of the

Jews' accusation against our Lord is this: "How can you dare presume to act and speak as if you were God?" Jesus turns this accusation around by saying, in effect, "How is it possible for the Son of God to act in any way that is independent of, or inconsistent with God the Father and what He is doing?" The Jews are saying, "How is it possible for you to speak and act as you do?" Jesus is saying, "If I am God, how is it possible for Me to do otherwise?"

It is impossible for a lion to act like a lamb, for a bear to behave like a bunny rabbit. It is impossible for our Lord to act in any way that is not like His Father. Jesus is one with the Father. Jesus is God. He must therefore act and speak like God. Is this not what our Lord's "temptation" was all about (**Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-12**)? And this is exactly what Satan could not comprehend—that as the Son of God, Jesus could not act independently of God. Satan seems to have believed that because Jesus was God He could act as He pleased. In our text, Jesus tells us the opposite: because He is God, He must act like God. He cannot act independently of His Father! Satan's efforts were all in vain. He tries to entice Jesus to do something that is impossible for Him to do—act in an unGod-like manner—because He is the Son of God.

I believe our Lord's first defense is based upon His divine nature. He is, by nature, divine (to which, John tells us, sinless humanity has been added—**John 1:14-18**). He cannot act contrary to His nature. He must act as God the Father acts. His words and His deeds are those of the Father. Like father, like son, we say, and so does our Lord. The Son does what He sees His Father doing." (**Deffinbaugh**)

It is very clear from our text who Jesus claims to be. It is also very clear who the Jewish authorities believe Jesus claims to be. The two most important questions you will ever answer are these:

- (1) Is Jesus right about who He claims to be?
- (2) If He is right, what have you done about it?

There are no more important questions in life than these. What is your answer?

Lord, it is my prayer that we see you as you are and by this trust in you and be saved. That our faith in you will lead us to our new identity in Jesus and that we will live it out because we cannot live as someone we are not.