

## Equality with God: Like Father, Like Son

### John 5:19-30

Happy Resurrection Sunday! All the hope of every Christian is anchored upon the events of three days! Good Friday secured that the sin debt had been paid in full. Resurrection Sunday validated that reality and brought eternal life to all who believe.

This morning, we continue our study of John's Gospel with the passage that records the first use of the word "resurrection" in this gospel. This passage is very relevant to Easter, because it focuses us upon the work accomplished by the Father and the Son. It is Jesus' response to the Jews' anger of His healing a man on the Sabbath and their claim that He was guilty of blasphemy, making Himself equal with God. (18)

- **Jesus claims equality with God. (19-20)** Jesus responds to the Jews with a very clear declaration of His unique, personal relationship with the Father. The Father and the Son are in perfect harmony in all that they do!

The prologue of John's Gospel identifies our Lord Jesus Christ as being in the beginning with God and equal with God. In other words, the Word is distinct from God, yet equal with God. The very purpose of John's writing is "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah], the Son of God." (John 20:31)

There is no more important question than the one Jesus asked His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15) When considering the person of Christ, we must be careful to allow Scripture to enlighten our understanding, not our subjective experiences.

Here are four Christological gems: (John 1:1-14; Col. 1:15-20; Phil. 2:5-11 and Heb. 1:1-4)

- **Jesus claims to be the source of eternal life. (21, 24-26)** Some would argue that Jesus never claimed to be God, however, the Scriptures reveal a Jesus who, both explicitly and implicitly, taught concerning his unique relationship as God's Son.

Jesus came to give life to all who would believe. He is the True source of life. Listen to the words of Jesus to Martha in John 11:21-27.

- **Jesus claims authority over the final judgment. (22-23; 27-30)** Jesus assumed the divine prerogatives of forgiving sins (Mark 2:5-10; Luke 7:36-50), claiming that one's eternal destiny depended upon their relationship to Him (Matt 10:32-33; 11:6), and claiming that He would ultimately judge the world (Matt 9:28; John 5:22-29; Acts 10:42).

During His ministry, He acted as one who possessed a unique authority over the temple by cleansing it (Mark 11:15-19, 27-33; John 2:13-21), over demons and Satan by His exorcisms, over disease by His healings, over the Sabbath by His actions (Mark 2:23-28), over death by His raising the dead and at times even over the Law by His teachings (Matt 5:21-48; Mark 7:18-19).

**Application:** Everyone will face Jesus! He cannot be ignored, and you cannot be neutral in your response to Him. Two destinations will be the final destiny for all humanity. A resurrection of life (those in Christ) and a resurrection of judgment and condemnation (those not found in Christ).

Jesus lived, died, and rose again that you might experience a resurrection of eternal life!