

The Gospel of John

The Father and The Son

John 5:17-31

Jesus stands accused of breaking the Jewish Sabbath by healing a crippled man by the Pool of Bethesda. His defense is that He was working the will of God. He does not stop there though as He drops an even more controversial fact on the Jews: He was God, the Son equal to the Father.

The Setting

- This takes place immediately after the healing of the crippled man in opening of the chapter.
- This is a public confrontation between the Jewish leaders and Christ.
- Still at the feast (Passover?), so throngs of people are around.

The Trinity

- A divinely revealed truth that the Godhead is three persons yet one God.
- Alluded to in Old Testament – Genesis 1:26, Numbers 6:22-27
- Revealed in New Testament – Luke 3:21-22, Matthew 28:19, I John 5:7

The Story

- Christ's defense of His actions – vs. 17
 - “They charge Him with breaking the law of God. His answer to this charge is that His action was the result of His Sonship and unity with that God.” – Ellicott
 - Christ's Father is God the Father
 - Chronologically, the fourth time He has made this claim – Luke 2:49, John 2:16, John 3:16-18
 - This title is rarely used or even implied in the Old Testament – Exodus 4:22-23, Isaiah 63:16, Hosea 11:1
 - Christ the Son of God
 - Is a claim to be the Messiah and fulfillment of prophecy – Psalm 2:7-8, Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:49
 - To claim to be the Son of God was to claim the same divine nature as God and thus be God.
 - God did not rest on the Sabbath as He had commanded the Jews to do – Exodus 20:8-11
 - While God had ceased His created work on the seventh day, but not His sustaining, providential, or redemptive work.

- “God never ceases working; but as to burn is the property of fire, and to be cold is the property of snow, thus also to work is the property of God, and much the more, inasmuch as He is the origin of action for all others” – 1st century Jewish philosopher Philo
- Jewish leaders now have two reasons to hate Christ: breaking traditional law in working (healing) on the Sabbath and claiming to be equal with God – vs. 18
- The Father and Son are one in purpose and power – vs. 19
- Christ will be involved in greater works in the future as proof of His deity – vs.20
 - Raising the dead – vs. 21
 - He will raise three people from the dead: Jairus’s daughter (Mark 5:35-42), the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11-15), and Lazarus (John 11:14-44)
 - Judging the world – vs. 22
 - Matthew 16:27, Acts 10:42, II Corinthians 5:10, II Timothy 4:1, Romans 14:10-12
- To honor the Father, you must honor the Son, and vice versa – vs. 23
- Salvation is through Christ alone – vs. 24
- The dead shall live through Christ – vs. 25
 - Dead spiritually – Salvation – Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 2:13
 - Dead physically – Resurrection – I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- As Messiah, life and judgment are given to Christ – vs. 26-27
- Christ will be Lord of the Resurrection – vs. 28-29
 - Some are resurrected to life, and some are resurrected to damnation.
- Christ working in unison with the Father doing His Will – vs. 30
- There are further proofs and authority that Christ was telling the truth – vs. 31
 - We will look at these next week...