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Jews accuse Jesus

of making Himself

Equal with God.

(John 5:17-20)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Jews accuse Jesus of Making Himself Equal with God.

- **John 5:17-20:** But Jesus answered them (the Jews), “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.

Prior to these verses Jesus is in Jerusalem on a Sabbath Day and had healed a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. Jesus told the man to take up his bed and go on his way. The man stood up carried his bed and went on his way (no doubt greatly rejoicing). Because the man carried his bed on the Sabbath Day the Jews persecuted Jesus. This is absolutely stunning these Jews were so spiritually blind to what is important to the heart of God and that God’s miraculous healing power was clearly upon Jesus that their legalistic minds could only focus on the fact that a man was carrying a bed on a Sabbath Day. They were totally blind to the breathtaking and glorious miracle of a man been able to walk after being invalid for thirty-eight years.

Sadly, there are some religious people today who seemed to have a similar spiritual blindness in that they use the words, “Jesus was making himself equal to God,” to support the theory that Jesus is God. This is not only a perfect example of lifting a verse up out of its context and forcing it to be say something it is not, but also a good example of approaching Scripture with a pre-conceived mindset and reading into it something that is not there. Putting the words, “Making himself equal with God” into the context of the surrounding verses the first three things to notice are: -

1. It was not Jesus who said he was making himself equal with God, but the Jew who were persecuting him.
2. Jesus refers to himself as the Son and calls God his Father.
3. If Jesus was actually God his words, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do only do what he sees the Father doing, would be deceptive and not true at all.

When John the Baptist baptized Jesus, God poured His Spirit out upon Jesus without measure (meaning without any limitations). Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God in all its fullness. Jesus had an intimate relationship with his heavenly Father and was in constant communion with him. This is why Jesus was able to say he does nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing, meaning only what he knows is the will of his heavenly Father. The words, “My Father is working until now, and I am working” do not mean that Jesus is God (as some believe), but that God by His Spirit was:

- Working through Jesus reconciling the world to himself (2 Cor. 5:19).
- Enabling Jesus to do the wonders and miracles that Jesus did.

The fact Jesus was calling God his own Father (v18) should cancel any thought that Jesus is God. Consider the following question, “If Jesus was the Son of God on earth while the immortal, invisible and eternal God Almighty was his heavenly Father, and after Jesus death and resurrection God his Father raised him to His right hand side where the Scripture clearly proclaim he is at this present time, when does Jesus become God the Father himself?” Obviously, this is foolish talking and makes no sense, but hopefully it might inspire those who do believe Jesus is God to question the traditional teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ God’s

Son and his heavenly Father. Jesus told the Jews, "The Father loves the Son (v20)." Jesus had no doubt that he was greatly loved by his heavenly Father and it is very clear to everyone who reads the Bible that Jesus had perfect love for God the Almighty his heavenly Father. It bedazzles me how anyone can make any sense of Jesus being God since that means at some point Jesus has to become his Father and the Father has to become his Son. This is course is silliness, but it is what those who believe that Jesus is God have to conclude.

NOTE: most who believe Jesus is God do not allow themselves to think logically or use the intellect God has given us to reason through the ramifications of what it means to turn Jesus God's most beloved Son into God the Father.

Jesus words:

- The Father shows the Son all that he himself is doing and greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel (v20)

God not only perfectly and fully revealed all the eternal plans and purposes concerning earth, the world, the universe and mankind's eternal salvation that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world began, but also empowered Jesus with all His miraculous power to perform the wonders and healing miracles he did. God empowered Jesus in this way so that it would be clear to everyone (or should have been) that he was who he claimed to be Israel's Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world since no man could do the miracles Jesus did without the favour of God being upon him.

FOOTNOTE

Since the belief that a person must believe Jesus is God to be saved to eternal life has taken such a stronghold in the Christian faith many who deny this teaching can feel intimidated (especially new converts) by those who believe Jesus is God and are often rejected by the traditional church as heretics and told that they cannot possibly be saved to eternal life. The following will bring comfort to every faithful believer who accepts the simple truth that God is the eternal, immortal, invisible Almighty creator and source of all life and that Jesus is His most beloved Son and hopefully shine a brilliant light upon how grossly wrong it is to believe that a man or woman believing in Christ is a heretic and cannot possibly be saved to eternal life simply because they do not hold to the traditional teaching that Jesus is God.

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There is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- Sinners must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- Sinners must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from

Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life.

- Jesus said, “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God ‘and’ Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:3).

It is enormously difficult for this author to comprehend how the doctrine, “Jesus is God” ever got such a strong foothold in the global body of Christ when there is so much evidence that very clearly shows that this is simply not so.

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