

SPEAKING OF EQUALITY

In the first four chapter of the Gospel of John we find the Presentation of the Son of God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The forerunner is introduced and introduces Jesus as the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world.

His first miracle, at the wedding chapter two.

The conversation with Nicodemus---you must be born again.

Chapter four the Samaritan Women---and many believed because of her encounter with Jesus.

Chapter five begins with the Lame Man by the pool and Jesus heals him.

Things are moving along smoothly until now when He performs this miracle on the Sabbath. Now the real issue starts!!!

In the first 3 books the "The Father" is mentioned 29 times.

In the Gospel of John once in first 4 chapters

Beginning in chapter 5:17 and beyond mentioned 89 times.

READ 5:15-18 the cause of it all.

SPEAKING OF EQUALITY

John 5:15-30

Jesus claims deity and sets off a firestorm. Religious leaders are upset at such claims.

He also made the claim that all authority belonged to Him. Again, outrage for such a statement.

The truth is, that all mankind, must face the truth of these statements. Not just those in Jesus's day.

How could He make such an outrageous statement? Did He have such authority?

Well, He proclaimed he possessed equality with God and then proceeded to prove it.

1. Why HE CLAIMS DEITY? (5:15-18)

A. His First Claim:

- 1. He claims equality with God.**
- 2. He called God "My Father" and not "Our Father."**
- 3. This speaks of a unique relationship---a Father-Son union with God.**
- 4. The interesting thing about that statement is the fact, the Jewish leaders understood what it meant.**
 - a. He said God was His Father**
 - b. Making Himself equal with God "Equal to God."**
- 5. His claim was unquestionable---they knew what He was claiming!**
 - a. Notice what it created:**

⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham who died? Even the prophets died. Who do You pretend to be?"

⁵⁴ "If I glorify Myself," Jesus answered, "My glory is nothing. My Father—you say about Him, 'He is our God'—He is the One who glorifies Me.

⁵⁵ You've never known Him, but I know Him. If I were to say I don't know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I keep His word.

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day; he saw it and rejoiced."

⁵⁷ The Jews replied, "You aren't 50 years old yet, and You've seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Before Abraham was, I am."

⁵⁹ At that, they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple complex. John 8:53-59

John 10:24-33

²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and asked, “How long are You going to keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

²⁵ “I did tell you and you don’t believe,” Jesus answered them. “The works that I do in My Father’s name testify about Me.

²⁶ But you don’t believe because you are not My sheep.

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

³⁰ The Father and I are one.”

³¹ Again the Jews picked up rocks to stone Him.

³² Jesus replied, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. Which of these works are you stoning Me for?”

³³ “We aren’t stoning You for a good work,” the Jews answered, “but for blasphemy, because You—being a man—make Yourself God.”

A. His First Claim---Equality with God

B. His Second Claim:

1. “My Father is still working” meaning He is still at work.

2. God never ceases to work, even on the Sabbath.

3. When God created the world, He rested on the Sabbath Day (Sunday).

4. This was rest from His creative work, not His other work.

5. Including love and mercy, compassion, His sovereignty continued.

a. Notice Jesus said “I am working also.”

b. His work included Sabbath as well.

c. Again claiming to be equal with God, doing the same as the Father.

6. This is why they wanted to kill Him.

a. He clearly broke the Law saying “My Father” being equal with God

b. He was clearly claiming to be “the Son of God.”

c. He broke the law against working on the Sabbath.

d. He claimed He had the same authority to do good on the Sabbath.

7. How does all of this affect us?

- a. You either accept the claim of Jesus to be equal with God or reject it.
- b. The claim was clearly made. So there no middle ground.
- c. Mankind is now forced, to make a decision.
- d. Today people use this for approval to work on Sunday.

8. Jesus wasn't trying to erase the Lord's day as a day of rest for man.

- a. Just the opposite---it should be a day of compassion helping others in need.

2. WHY HE IS EQUAL WITH THE FATHER? (5:19)

A. The First Proof:

1. The first proof He was equal with God was His obedience.

2. He gives two outstanding facts:

- a. First: He did not act alone. He was not independent of God.
- b. He was not disobedient to His Father.
- c. He didn't do His own thing, or act selfishly, or walk separately from God.
- d. Second: He did just what He saw the Father. READ v-19

3. Understand these facts about this verse!

- a. He was in perfect, unbroken communion with the Father.
- b. He was of the very same nature and person as the Father.
- c. He acted as God because He was God
- d. He did exactly what God did.

e. John 5:16-19

¹⁶ "Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

¹⁷ But Jesus responded to them, "My Father is still working, and I am working also."

¹⁸ This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill Him: Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

¹⁹ Then Jesus replied, "I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way."

4. He acted and behaved exactly like the Father acted and behaved.

- a. Matt. 11:27, John 7:29, 8:55, 10:15,30, 37-38

3. WHY HE DOES GREAT WORKS (5:20)

A. The Second Proof:

1. The second proof that He was equal with God was His great works.

a. READ 5:36

b. See what He says in v-20? “For the Father loves the Son”

c. The Father never stopped loving the Son and continues to do so.

d. In the worst moment of the Son’s life the Father still loved His Son.

John 10:17-18

¹⁷This is why the Father loves Me, because I am laying down My life so I may take it up again.

¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from My Father.”

2. Therefore: the Father showed the Son all things which He did.

a. READ V-20

b. Notice He will now be able to do greater things.

c. Greater than healing people, now controlling forces of nature, multiplying food, raising the dead, instituting new ordinances, creating people anew.

d. John 5:36, 9:4, 10:25, 10:37-38.

4. WHY CAN HE GIVE LIFE? (5:21)

A. The Third Proof:

1. The third proof that Jesus was equal with God was His power to give life.

2. God gives life, and God alone can give life.

a. If He wants to take a dead body and give it life---who will argue?

b. Whatever He wants to do---HE CAN! AMEN!

3. This act of giving life or raising the dead proves:

a. God is sovereign, doing exactly what He alone can do.

b. He is not constrained nor restrained!

c. He Has power and authority. The Father Sent Him, they don’t understand this.

4. He knows exactly what He is doing and He does it perfectly! REPEAT

5. Christ gives life to whom He wills, just as the Father does.

a. So He is equal with the Father in giving life and raising the dead.

b. When a person believes, He has power to give eternal life.

c. "And just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to anyone He wants to." V-21

d. Matt. 9:6, 28:18, John 17:2, Romans 8:11, Ephes. 2:2-9

5. WHY HE CAN JUDGE MAN (5:22-23)

A. The Fourth Proof:

1. The fourth proof of He being equal, was His control over the whole judicial process.

2. READ VERSES 22-23

3. Most people think they will be judged by God the Father

a. Jesus says that is not the case.

b. He will be the judge and the Father will "judge no one."

4. It has been committed to the Son. Another reason He is equal with God!

a. It is a picture of the Supreme Court of Heaven and Jesus is presiding.

5. The reason behind this: God has declared that all should honor the Son as they honor Him.

a. The idea being that God determined man will treat the Son the same as Him.

b. If man does not honor Christ he does not honor God.

c. If man does not worship Christ, he does not worship God.

Mark 8:38

³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

1 John 2:22-23

²² **Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Messiah? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son.**

²³ **No one who denies the Son can have the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.**

6. WHY DOES HE HAVE SUCH POWER? (5:24-25)

A. His Fifth Proof:

1. His power over man's destiny.

2. Power to save men from death to life.

3. He shares how people are saved. 3 things:

a. READ VERSE

b. People are saved by hearing His word. "Faith comes by hearing"

c. Commitment and obedience to it.

d. They are saved by believing God---that He sent His Son Jesus to save us.

4. John 3:16 Using the word "greatest**."**

a. Roman 5:8 "While we were yet sinners" Not after getting our act together.

b. Dietrich Bonhoeffer "God doesn't love some ideal person, but rather human beings just as we are, not some ideal world, but rather the real world."

5. Notice then the result of being saved: ETERNAL LIFE

a. "I tell you the truth" Why would He lie? He would be a phony!

b. He isn't hesitant in His statement. "I tell you the truth."

c. We pass from a state of death (separation) into a state of life.

d. From condemnation to a state of justification.

e. When one is truly saved he is never condemned to die. REPEAT

f. He is now declared righteous and given eternal life.

e. READ 24 " has (present tense) passed from physical death to eternal life.

6. The end result, of it all READ v-25

a. Resurrection unto eternal life.

Conclusion: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (CEV)

¹³ My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for those followers who have already died. Then you won't grieve over them and be like people who don't have any hope.

¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, he will bring with him all who had faith in Jesus before they died.

¹⁵ Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes, we won't go up to meet him ahead of his followers who have already died.

¹⁶ With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life.

¹⁷ Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Encourage each other with these words.