

# Honoring God the Father

John 5:16-27

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**Introduction:** Throughout His ministry Jesus challenged the idea that manmade religion could ever save someone or reconcile him to God. The crown jewel in the manmade religion of the Jews was the keeping of the Sabbath. A day that was originally designed to give men rest from their labors so that they could reflect on how God made, sustains and owns all things, had become a ritual to be kept for its own sake. It was no longer about worship of God but about the religion of men.

**Exodus 20:8-11** <sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Why is Jesus constantly choosing the Sabbath to do miracles and healings? Because the Jews were obsessed with the Sabbath and had polluted it with dozens of their own regulations turning it into a religious observance rather than an opportunity to worship and rejoice. Jesus used these occasions to expose that they loved their religion more than God or other men, both of which are at the very heart of worship and obedience.

**Mark 12:30-31** <sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' <sup>31</sup> "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Having their glaring religious hypocrisy exposed is why they were persecuting Jesus.

**John 5:16** <sup>16</sup> For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

The Jews loved to make a show of honoring God, but Christ's Sabbath miracles forced their hearts out into the open. Jesus, who knew the minds of all men, said of them....

**Mark 7:6-9** <sup>6</sup> ..... "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. <sup>7</sup> 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' <sup>8</sup> "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." <sup>9</sup> He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

The encounter we are about to read took place on the Sabbath day somewhere in Jerusalem. Jesus has performed a notable miracle and commanded the man he has healed

to take up his pallet and walk. Later Jesus identifies Himself to the man knowing that the man who was healed would go to the Jews and tell them who He was. These religious leaders now find out where Jesus is teaching the crowds and they come near Him and begin to hound Him and threaten Him because of what He did. The word persecute means to pursue, follow or chase. They wanted to run Him out of town.

The stage is now set and all eyes and ears are turned toward Christ. The Jews are angry with the man who was healed and are even more angry with the one who told him to break one of their religious rules. This would be the perfect time to try to calm everything down.....to explain or apologize to these men. This is what Jesus says instead:

**John 5:17-27** <sup>17</sup> But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." <sup>18</sup> For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. <sup>19</sup> Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. <sup>20</sup> "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. <sup>21</sup> "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. <sup>22</sup> "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. <sup>24</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. <sup>25</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; <sup>27</sup> and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.

Jesus now explicitly reveals His true Nature and origin. He claims .....

- That God is His own Father [17-18]
- That He is doing everything God does [19-20]
- That He has the same power as God [21]
- That He has been given the authority of God to judge [22]
- That He is worthy of the honor given to God [23-24]

### **God is His own Father [17-18]**

**John 5:17-18** <sup>17</sup> But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." <sup>18</sup> For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

**He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.":**  
We have to remember what the issue was at this moment. Jesus had performed forbidden

work on the Sabbath and commanded someone else to do the same thing. The issue here is work! What work is a human being allowed to do on the Sabbath? What Jesus does here is very unexpected and it got the maximum reaction from the Jews who were there. Let me paraphrase. “No matter what rules you Jews makeup.....My Father....God continues to work. He is exempt from your rules as am I.

Talk about throwing gasoline on the fire! Jesus is making three claims here that the Jews understood perfectly. This is why they became murderous toward Him.

- He claimed that God was His own father. It was not “our Father” like he taught us to pray. It was “my Father.”
- He claimed that God was not bound to keep the Sabbath because like everything else in creation He had made it. Now don’t get too far ahead here. God does not break His own moral absolutes. This is a revelation that the Sabbath is not a moral absolute. It had been elevated to one because it was easier to pridefully keep it for a few hours a week than to love God and your fellow man from the heart. This statement is a teaching on the purpose and value of the Sabbath as well as on the nature of Christ. Jesus further explained in Mark saying.....

**Mark 2:27-28** <sup>27</sup> ..... "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> "So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

- Lastly, He claimed to be God....free to work whenever He chooses including the Sabbath.

**For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God:** This pretty much speaks for itself. John reveals by his choice of words that the Jews were wanting to kill Him before this but now He had given them exactly the justification that they needed. Mark this verse down and remember this the next time you hear the comment that Jesus never claimed to be God.

## **He is doing everything God does [19-20]]**

**John 5:19** <sup>19</sup> Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

**Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner:** If you said something and your hearer said..."Are you saying you are God...Yahweh....The one true God?" What would you say? You would say, of course not...you have misunderstood me." BUT....Jesus doubles down and makes this statement. What does He say here exactly?

- That He [Jesus] never acts independently of the Father. This is not a statement of need on Christ's part. Jesus is not saying that He needs the Father to give Him the power to act. This is a further explanation of the assertion that **"My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."** It asserts equality while affirming their separate personhood. They are one in essence and nature....always acting together. They are co-equal in nature and in action.

**John 14:8-9** <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."  
<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- That He has seen God do things. John has already assured us that Jesus was with God in the beginning and is God.

**John 1:1-2** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

- That He and God are in a mutual relationship of deep emotional affection. It is not agape here, but phileo. Jesus says that the Father is continuously loving the Son. They are always together in intimate fellowship. It is the love that drives the intimacy and not the other way around. Jesus sees everything God does because He is always with God and He is always with God because God loves Him. Love is the bond of the Trinity and not anything else.

**John 5:20** <sup>20</sup> "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

God is going to do greater works than a mere healing. If you guys are impressed with that you will see the Son do things that will make you marvel. Jesus goes on at this point to elaborate on this claim.

## **He has the same power as God [21]**

**John 5:21** <sup>21</sup> "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

Others have raised the dead right? What about Elijah? Jesus is just another one of these great prophets of God that can perform this miracle.

**1 Kings 17:21-22** <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him." <sup>22</sup> The LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived.

But Jesus is precise in His claim. Elijah prayed and God answered. BUT...Jesus says....look at His words with me...."The Son also gives life to whom He wishes." Just

in case someone tries to say that this is not a claim to Deity...Jesus explains further in verse 26.....

**John 5:25-26** <sup>25</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

Why is Christ always with God and always seeing everything God does? He is His Son!!! He has the same nature!!! And...there is more!

**John 5:20** <sup>20</sup> "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

There is eternal love, affection, respect, admiration and intimacy. They know one another fully. What one does the other sees. What one thinks or knows the other thinks and knows as well.

No one made God! He is self-existent. Christ is exactly like God....He is God!.....The SON! He has power, as the life giver, over all life!

**John 4:13-14** <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

**John 6:27** <sup>27</sup> "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

## **He has been given the authority of God to judge [22]**

**John 5:22** <sup>22</sup> "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

The word "judgment" is also translated "condemn." This is an important fact for you to know particularly in light of Christ's statement here. Jesus asserts that all condemning in the universe has been placed in His hands by mutual agreement between the two co-eternal persons....The Father and the Son.

Now we need to understand Jesus' teaching about judgment in the light of this truth. Everyone seems to know about Christ's command in the Sermon on the Mount.

**Matthew 7:1-5** "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup> "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Many desperately want this to mean that no one can say anything is right or wrong, but that is clearly not what Christ intended. Jesus ends this statement with the words “then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” You need to get your mind around this or you will become like The Jews who condemned everybody. You will be a hypocrite, without love and unable to care for or minister to anyone because they are always too sinful for you. Let’s look at this together:

**Verse One:** “Do not condemn so that you will not be condemned” Why does Jesus make such a statement? Is He saying that we should just turn a blind eye to all sin? Drunkenness, addiction, hatred, malice...even immorality? Can we just say “who am I to judge” and then get on with life?

**Verse Two:** "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." This is the answer to the above question. How do you want to be judged for your sin...hidden or otherwise? I have had people tell me of their own sins in great detail only to observe them condemn with malice and disgust, men and women caught in the very same sins. This is “The way you judge.” It sets the course for how you will be judged. Most people think this means by God...so they...confident in their own justification by faith....just go right ahead and condemn others for being sinners. Jesus said, that someone is going to dish out to you what you have given to others. This is a strong warning and explained in just a few verses by Jesus Himself...

**Matthew 7:12** <sup>12</sup> "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

When we say...”what goes around, comes around!” this is what Jesus means. Be aware of your own sin! Those who believe themselves to be just will always condemn others. If you have no awareness of your own moral failures you will always condemn failure in others. You may not kill anyone....Jesus said, But do you hate? You may not commit adultery, But do you lust?

You may not have stumbled yet, but when you do sin openly will you welcome a pack of jackals howling over your broken heart or life or would you desire mercy, grace, help, advice, yes...love and concern?

There is much more we could say about this but going back to our verse in John....

**John 5:22** <sup>22</sup> "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

Christ is the only human being sufficiently qualified to judge and condemn men in their sin. Even this He does not do today or we would all be in the grave as I speak.

**John 12:45-48** <sup>45</sup> "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. <sup>46</sup> "I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> "He who rejects Me and does not

receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Jesus offers mercy, grace, forgiveness and love....while the religious offer condemnation, imagined justice, hostility and hatred to those who do not meet their personal standard of holiness. To those who were standing in judgment of God that day in Jerusalem and the man that God had healed and instructed....Jesus made it clear that they were totally out of line! They...like us....are unfit to condemn anyone.

- If you have received forgiveness then by all means give it freely to others.
- If you have been given grace then please....please....be gracious to your spouse, your children and your neighbors.
- If you have been loved unconditionally then love the same way.

It is the “way you measure” that will be measured back to you. Do what you want done! Don’t turn that around and do what you have had done to you. If you take anything away this morning....please take that!

## **He is worthy of the honor given to God [23]**

**John 5:23** <sup>23</sup> so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

**So that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father:** This statement explains why Christ’s equality with the Father has been revealed. Jesus has life in Himself. He was not given life...He is the life giver....He is God! He has seen everything God has ever done...even in eternity past. He was not told about it. He saw it. He is God. He has the same authority and power to act as the Father does. Whatever God does....you name it....Christ does. He is God! This is why Christ is worthy of honor and worship.

**He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him:** I do not know of a clearer statement than this about cults and false teachers within the church who claim to honor God while impugning and diminishing His Son. Nowhere is this more blatant than in the Jehovah Witness who march up and down the whole surface of the earth for the purposes of honoring God by telling everyone that Jesus was not and could not possibly have been the God of creation in human form.

## **CONCLUSION**

**John 5:24** <sup>24</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

**"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life:** With these words Jesus tells us how to honor Him and how to honor the Father. He does not prescribe religion, ritual or reformation. He takes out His

prescription pad and writes “Listen to my Words and Trust God who sent me to speak them to you!”

Do not ignore my words or twist my words! Do not devise countless explanations for what my words mean or should have been, but listen [pay attention] to my words.

***That person has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life:*** I am the only one with whom you can deal. If you trust me I will give you your eternal life. That is a life that shares the intimate love and joy I always have with the Father. The life that finds meaning and fulfillment even in this world. It is a life that does not end with your physical death.

How will Christ not judge us but give us life instead? By willingly taking our judgment upon Himself at the Cross.

**1 Peter 2:22-25** <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.