

That You Might Believe

John 5:19-47

“Jesus imitates the Father, we are to imitate both Father and Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I. Like Father, Like Son (v.19-29)

v.19-23 - This is the beginning of Jesus' answer to the Jews' charge that he was making himself equal to God.

He lays down three things about his relationship with God:

- 1) He lays down his *identity with God*.
- 2) This identity is based on *complete obedience*.
- 3) This obedience *is based on love*.

The Father initiates, sends, commands, commissions, grants; the Son responds, obeys, performs his Father's will, receives authority. In this sense, the Son is the Father's agent though, as John goes on to insist, much more than an agent.

v.24-26 - Jesus is the Giver of Life

This is speaking of a spiritual resurrection

v.27-29 – Jesus the Judge of All

When you come to Jesus, you come to One who is both Judge and Judged

II. The Witnesses (v.30-47)

Jesus now begins to deal with the issue of witness. You needed at least two people to bear witness to what you are doing.

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.” Deuteronomy 19:15

“This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”

1 Corinthians 13:1

“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” Matthew 18:16

“Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.” 1 Timothy 5:19

Further, it was universally held that a man’s evidence about himself could not be accepted. The Mishnah said: ‘A man is not worthy of belief when he is speaking about himself.’

Four Witnesses:

1) The Witness of John the Baptist

2) The Witness of His Works, Signs, Miracles

3) The Witness of His Father

4) The Witness of the Scripture/Moses

The Ignoring of the Witnesses (v.41-47)

III. Conclusion