

The Exclusivity of the Son With the Father

John 8:13-20

13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."
14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. 17 It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."
19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?"
Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."
20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come. NKJV

As James M Boice points out in his excellent commentary on this passage, there are three basic ways remove the affect of a witness. One you can kill him as the Jesus have lately tried to do to Jesus. Or you can discredit him as they tried to do with the woman at the well. Or finally you can bring up a technicality to discredit him as they are trying in the passage before us today.

Of course these Jewish leaders did not like Jesus or His teachings but He was widely accepted by the people, who were leaning toward accepting Him as the long awaited Messiah. So these leaders must do all that they can to stop Jesus or at least discredit His testimony.

- I. They accuse Jesus of telling lies.
 - A. (8:13) The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."
 - B. They base this on His lone testimony
 1. The idea being taken from the law of Moses that no one could be put to death by the testimony of only one person. Num. 35:30; Deut 17:6;
 2. Dt 19:15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.
 - C. The problem with their accusation is that no one but Jesus has knowledge to either establish or discredit what He is saying.
 - D. If Jesus is claiming that no one knows the Father as the Son does then who could prove that to be incorrect.
- II. Jesus points out that even if He was a lone witness, It would not mean His words were false.

- A. (8:14) Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true,
 - B. As with many things the Jews had stretched the command far beyond what was intended.
 - 1. They have taken a law that dealt with testimony in a capital case and applied it to the testimony of all, at least all that they did not agree with.
- III. Jesus was not confused about who He was or why He was here.
- A. for I know where I came from and where I am going;
 - B. Jesus knew all things, John will tell us later. John 18:4
 - 1. Jn 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"
 - C. Those writers today who make Jesus out to be confused and a person searching for what He should do are just wrong.
- IV. Even though they imagined they knew where He was from they were wrong.
- A. but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.
 - B. The existence that Jesus claimed was beyond human comprehension, or discovery.
 - 1. There was no method they could use to test His claims.
 - 2. Although Jesus showed them various miracles or signs that overwhelmingly displayed the fact that Jesus was no simple mortal man.
- V. Next He tells them that their judgement of Him was inadequate and prejudiced.
- A. (8:15) "You judge according to the flesh;
 - 1. The flesh is limited.
 - 2. The flesh is prejudiced against spiritual things.
 - a. Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. NKJV
 - b. This is the problem when we accept those with fleshly ideas about spiritual things.
 - 3. This physical world, even with all of its technology is totally inadequate to discern spiritual things
 - a. 1 Cor 2:13-16 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not

receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. NKJV

- B. The problem we have today is easily illustrated.
 - 1. You have all heard of Wikipedia, it is a user written encyclopedia where if you are reading it and disagree with it, you can go in and change it. Of course they will look at it and want to know your sources. But it eventually becomes what the majority of people think.
 - 2. Today most people treat Jesus and the Bible as though it is biblepedia.
 - 3. They think that God wants us to update the Bible to keep up with modern trends.
 - 4. So the things that God condemns in the Bible are simply changed so that those who condemn those things are themselves now condemned by God.
 - 5. Pretty slick, right. But the majority is not necessarily right.
 - 6. And deciding moral issues by majority vote is an extremely bad idea.
- VI. His purpose was not to judge the world but He came to save the world.
 - A. I judge no one.
 - B. It was not that He was not capable but that was not His purpose.
 - C. But Him allowing Himself to be rejected and put to death certainly did judge the world.
- VII. His judgement is true because of who He is.
 - A. (8:16) "And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.
 - B. Jesus is not a lone voice basing His teachings on His own mind and learning, on His own passions and knowledge.
 - C. He claims that His message is that of God, which makes it the ultimate authority.
 - D. Neither Jesus nor His teachings are open to reinterpretation.
- VIII. Therefore on the basis of the law which required two witnesses, His witness is true.
 - A. (8:17) "It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. (8:18) "I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."

- IX. The Son and the Father are mutually inclusive and exclusive.
- A. (8:19) Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."
 - B. No one knows the Father like the Son and no one knows the Son like the Father does.
 - 1. Matt 11: 27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. NKJV
 - 2. There is no knowing God except they also know the Son.
 - 3. Jesus is the revelation of God and His revelation far excels all others.
- X. Application
- A. We dare not leave the interpretation of Who God is or Jesus to people
 - B. They will always come up with the wrong answers.
 - C. We must accept only what God says in His word.

Tell the story of RA Torrey and the agnostic. Boice Vol 2, p 623-624

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