

## **JESUS' CREDENTIALS: HE IS WORTHY OF ALL HONOR AND OBEDIENCE**

### **John 5:19-29**

Credentials are important in many areas of life: travel, employment, school, Secretary of State, etc. But the most important credentials are spiritual. Who are you going to trust and believe? Why should I trust Jesus? Jesus presents His credentials as the ONLY SON of God in John 5...

#### **1. JESUS DOES WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO: HE IS UNITED WITH THE FATHER IN ACTION – verses 19,20**

- What God does, Jesus does. In John 5 Jesus is claiming to be God and defending Himself against the persecution of the Jewish leadership. He is equal with God – Philippians 2:6,7. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus says He does nothing without the Father's approval. Jesus does what the Father does. Why? Because the Father loves the Son. They are united in action and nature – John 10:30; 17:1-5, 24. Father and Son always act in unison in the glory of the Holy Trinity.
- But there is an order in the Trinity. Jesus, God the Son, joyfully submits to the Father and does His will. Jesus never acts autonomously or independently from the Father. *"The Father is God sending and commanding, the Son is God sent and obedient."* – C.K. Barrett, *John*. The Father sends, the Son obeys – 1 John 4:14.
- This is shocking stuff to Jews – Deuteronomy 6:4. But John and the apostles came to believe that Jesus is God in human flesh – John 1:18; 20:28. The Deity or Godhood of Jesus is at the heart of our faith.

#### **2. JESUS RECEIVES HONOR ONLY GOD DESERVES: TO HONOR GOD YOU MUST HONOR JESUS – verse 23.**

- We do not honor God the Father without honoring the Son. The greatest dishonor to God is to dishonor Jesus! – 1 John 2:22,23. The Father's purpose in giving all judgment into the hands of Jesus is for Jesus to be honored. As Jesus is exalted, the Father is glorified. There is nothing more dishonoring to Jesus than to reject Him as the only Way to God, and to reject His sacrifice on the cross as the only payment for our sins.
- Jesus is God the Son and is worthy of all worship, adoration, and obedience.

#### **3. JESUS HAS POWER ONLY GOD CAN CLAIM: TO GIVE LIFE AND JUDGE – verses 21-24, 25-29.**

- Only God gives life. As God gives life, so does Jesus! Jesus gives life as He chooses – Matthew 11:25-27. Jesus gives life spiritually to the spiritually dead –; Ephesians 2:1-4. How does Jesus impart life? Through His Word. *"This Word is the Son's whole message to the world."* – F. F. Bruce. Hearing His Word includes both belief and obedience. Eternal life begins now and extends through physical death into eternity! It is also a new quality of life. By faith in Jesus we have already passed from death to life –John 3:18, 36; Colossians 1:13.
- Only God can raise the dead. Jesus will raise all the dead in the future. There is a resurrection unto life with a glorious new body like Jesus' glorified body – Philippians 3:20,21; 1 John 3:2,3. There is also a resurrection unto damnation with a body fit for the eternal lake of fire – Revelation 20:11-15. The only ones who do good things are the ones who trust Jesus – John 6:28, 29. Even what seems good in an unbeliever is evil in God's sight - Proverbs 15:8; 21:27; Romans 14:23.

- Only God can judge. The Son of Man (Jesus) is the Judge of all people at the End of the Age – Daniel 7:10, 13, 14. The Father has appointed a day when He will judge the world by God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord – Acts 17:31.
- Jesus is claiming to be equal with God. Jesus' bold claims destroy any idea that He is simply a "good teacher" or just one option among many. He is either Lord, Liar, or Lunatic. *"In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any character in history...You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman, or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him or kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come to Him with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to."* – C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

Concluding applications:

- What do you think of Jesus and His credentials? You must trust Jesus in order to have eternal life and not be condemned.
- Every believer should fall afresh at the feet of Jesus in worship, surrender, and commitment. He is our joy, treasure, and life.
- We can never honor Jesus too much! The best way to honor Him is to live a life daily to honor Him in all we think, say, and do.