

Jn. 5:25-32 (WCF 2:1-3) “Not On His Own”

For the Children: Sometimes a teacher sends a student with a message to the other students. The messenger does not speak on his own, but with the teacher's authority behind him – though everyone can see that he is a different person than the teacher. All the Lord Jesus did, He did in His Father's Name and authority. People could see that He was a different Person than the Father, because He was sent by His Father and obeyed Him. But they could also see that He said and did things only God could do. God's people conclude that there is only one God. But that One God is 3 Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Questions:** Can we fully understand how God can be one and three? What are some things Jesus did that only God could do? Why should we be thankful that Jesus came to do what His Father sent Him to do?

Introduction:

First Point: Not on His Own Judgement

- 1) Calling from the Tombs: Jesus proves His equality with the Father (v. 18), by pointing out that He has the right and ability to call all the dead from the grave – to assemble them for the final judgement
- 2) Executing Judgement: He also has the right and ability to execute judgement. He has an inherent right as God – for only God is the Judge of all the earth (Gen. 18:25). But as Messiah, the “Son of Man” of Dan 7:14, He must be “given” this authority by the Father (v. 25)
- 3) Based on Attitude to Him: The judgement looks at men's deeds, whether good or evil – but as an indicator of one's attitude to Jesus, as to whether or not one has truly heard His Voice (v. 25). Only God has the right to judge on the basis of the attitude to Him. Having the right attitude to Christ is a practical application of the doctrine of the Trinity

Second Point: Not on His Own Life

- 1) Those Who Hear, Live: Christ has the right and ability to grant spiritual and eternal life – even to the glorification of our bodies – because He is God.. God alone is the “Fountain of life” (Ps. 36:9)
- 2) Life from the Father: The Father has life in Himself – He alone is Self-existent, all other life is derived. But Christ also has life in Himself (v. 26), and it is *given* Him as Messiah to bestow life on the elect. This shows His oneness with the Father, but also His distinction as a Person given things by the Father

Third Point: Not on His Own Initiative

- 1) Nothing on His Own: Christ neither came into this world or acted in it according to His own initiative. He came only to do His Father's will – to live by His Law, to follow His plan, to save only those given Him, even to the point of agony on the cross. We should be immensely grateful for His willingness to submit in this way, in order to save us
- 2) Assurance of Justice: Christ's judgement is therefore completely just, since it is all by His Father's initiative and will. Again we see the unity within the Trinity, as well as the distinction of Persons, with One submitting to the will of the other

Fourth Point: Not on His Own Testimony

- 1) Two or Three Witnesses: If the Father were silent in the face of Christ's claim of equality, who would believe Him? God Himself requires 2-3 witnesses to confirm a fact (Dt. 19:15). But the Father has given that testimony of His Son
- 2) The Father's Testimony: The Father's testimony is through His Voice at Jesus' baptism and on the Mt. of Transfiguration; His Spirit descending like a dove; through His whole Word; through prophets like John the Baptist. He does so in order that we should believe in His Son and worship God in the only acceptable way – through Christ and His merits. That, too, is an application of the doctrine of the Trinity

Conclusion: