

“God the Son – His Nature”

John 5:15-29

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. And our Bible teaching programs in several languages are available all the time and any time at the website, twr360.org. That’s twr360.org. Thousands are logging on to the sight for spiritual nourishment and blessing. You can join them and be blessed too!

And thousands tune in each week to hear those broadcasts. Like this listener from Ethiopia who listens to our programs in his native language, Oromo. He writes...

I am an evangelist, and the Heralds of Hope radio program helps me to understand the Gospel well. Also, I invite unbelievers to listen and then I discuss with them about Jesus. Please pray for my spiritual life to be strengthened so that I may witness Jesus to people in my village. I need prayers to grow in my faith and to be renewed in my hope and serve the Lord faithfully.

Praise God! The programs this man hears in his native language are helping to equip him to better serve the Lord. And then, as a result of what he hears he wants to grow in his ability to testify of Jesus to those in his village. Wonderful!

On the next several programs, Dr. Yoder’s teaching from the Gospel of John will focus on God the Son. We will learn about Jesus’ nature, His purpose, and His calling. I hope you can join us for each of these. Now, Here’s Dr. Yoder with his teaching, “God the Son – His Nature.”

We all have problems that are difficult to understand. We have situations or conflicts in life that are not easy to solve. We are surrounded with mysteries even in everyday life. I’m sure that you must say with me, “There are some things I don’t understand.” But I’m also glad that there are some things that can be cleared up when we get to the right source of information.

In this message we will go to the right source of information to learn about God’s Son. The Bible speaks about God’s Son in the second Psalm in these words: “I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” Maybe you didn’t know that was in the Bible: “Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

From the book of Proverbs, the 30th chapter, we have another very interesting portion in verses 1-4:

- 1 *The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*
- 2 *Surely, I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.*
- 3 *I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.*
- 4 *Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?*

These questions in the book of Proverbs must surely describe God Almighty, “Who hath ascended up into heaven? Who hath established all the ends of the earth?” This can mean none other than God. Then the question follows, “What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?”

When Jesus was conceived by the virgin Mary the angel Gabriel told her that her Son would be called, “The Son of the Highest.” You'll find that in Luke's Gospel, chapter 1. I believe the Bible is God's revelation to us which means we learn from the Bible what we otherwise could not know. So it's entirely appropriate and proper for us to talk about GOD THE SON-HIS NATURE. For this message we shall be learning from John 5:15-29 which are the words of Jesus.

- 15 *The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.*
- 16 *And therefore, did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.*
- 17 *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*
- 18 *Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*
- 19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*
- 20 *For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

- 21 *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*
- 22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*
- 23 *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honored not the Father, which hath sent him.*
- 24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hearth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
- 25 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*
- 26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*
- 27 *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*
- 28 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*
- 29 *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

In Jesus' teachings we have several DESCRIPTIONS which should help us understand the nature of God the Son.

First, There is Equality.

Jesus said They work together. "My father works hitherto, and I work." The people who heard Him say this knew exactly what He meant. They judged Him for making Himself equal with God because He referred to God as His Father. That Father / Son relationship spelled for them and for us equality. God the Son is equal with God the Father.

When John began to write his Gospel he said, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God, All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*"

Here Jesus said, “My father works, and I work.” Because He referred to God as His Father those who were around Him understood that He meant He was equal with God. There was equality between Him and God the Father.

There is another description which emerges out of the next verses: **There is Unity.**

There is unity between God the Son and God the Father. Jesus said that He can do nothing but what He sees the Father do. Whatever the Father does the Son does in the same manner. He said, “The Son can do nothing of himself.” They work in absolute harmony. The purpose of one is the same as the purpose of the other, so whatever the Father does the Son does. “The Father loves the Son and shows him all the things that He himself does. And he will show him greater works than these,” Jesus said.

He has the power to give life. As the Father has power so the Son has power. The Father has committed all judgment unto the Son. There is absolute unity between the Father and the Son. Therefore, we can talk about God the Son. We are correct because here we see there is absolute unity between the Father and the Son.

Now for some people that creates difficulty. I would like to point out to you two references we should note: one in Genesis and one in Deuteronomy.

When God brought Eve to Adam, Adam responded and said, “Because the woman is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh she shall be called woman.” And then he said, “They shall be one flesh,” “*basar echad*” my Hebrew Bible reads. That means these two became one. There is a unity between man and woman which is like the unity in God. Let us note Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD.” A unity, “*echad*”. Jesus in this Scripture in John 5 was talking about that kind of unity when He said that the Father and the Son do exactly the same things.

There is a third description, which Jesus used in His discourse: **There is Authority.**

There is no conflict between the Father and the Son, because the Father has given all authority unto the Son. Let us look at that 27th verse just as it is: “And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.” He also has authority to raise the dead because they shall hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear shall live. So He has

authority to give life, to raise the dead, to execute judgment and to assign for eternity! Those who are called up from the grave, who hear his voice, shall come forth some unto the resurrection of life and some shall come forth unto the resurrection of damnation.

God the Son has that authority for He is now risen from the dead. When Jesus spoke these words, of course, He was here in His earthly body as the Son of man, but He is now risen from the dead. He has, therefore, conquered all opposition and has absolute authority.

The nature of the Son of God is described in these words of Scripture. The people then living understood the implications of what He was saying, but many of them did not believe; some did. How is it with you?

He is not merely a man aspiring to be God. He is not only a prophet. He is God come in the flesh! As such He possesses equality with the Father, He possesses unity with the Father, He possesses authority with the Father. It is therefore important, my friend, that you and I both pay attention to God the Son.

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for teaching us from this portion of Holy Scripture. My friend, it is very important that you understand who Jesus is. You may ask why? Because Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father except through me.”* In other words, if you don’t know Jesus, then you can not know God. And if you don’t know God, then when your life is over here on this earth you cannot enter heaven. And that, my friend, would be a tragedy.

Now, were you blessed by this teaching by Dr. Yoder? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, “God the Son – His Nature.”

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. That email address again is, m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “God the Son – His Nature.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in John's Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.