

"Like Father, Like Son"
The Gospel of John Chapter 5:19-29

The Jewish religious leaders are seeking to kill Jesus, believing He had committed blasphemy and broken the Sabbath Law (Lev. 24:16; Ex. 31: 15). Jesus' response, a remarkable claim to Deity, is marked by the solemn "Amen, Amen," meaning that which is true, trustworthy, or so be it (Deut. 27:15-26; 2Cor. 1:20; Rev. 1:18, 3:14). The Son (the definite article in Greek) can do nothing except what the Father does, so the Jews' accusations are against the Father (Jhn. 1:18, 14:7-9)! The Father and the Son are One (Jhn. 10:30), hence They always act in perfect unison. Like Jesus in the flesh, we must set the Lord ever before us (Ps. 16:8).

The verb form of the Greek word *phileo* is used in verse 20, not the usual Greek word for God's love, *agape* (Jhn. 3:16, 35). *Phileo* denotes a familial (family) type relationship, appropriate in this context. Jesus' enemies will marvel at the greater coming works such as raising the dead and His own resurrection, for in Him all the fullness of the Deity dwells (Col. 2:9)! This very One they are planning to murder (Matt. 21:33-46).

The Father gives life, so does the Son (Jhn. 14:6). The Son has been given the position of Judge (Matt. 25:31-46). If the Son is not honored, neither is the Father. That salvation is dependent on both Father and Son is evident from verse 24, as well as the Holy Spirit (Jhn. 16:7-11; 1Cor. 6:11). There is also the reassuring promise of no judgment to believers (Rom. 8: 1).

The dead in verse 25 refers to those who are spiritually dead, Le. unbelievers separated from God by their sin (Rom. 6:4; Eph. 2:1-6). This is the first resurrection, the life of Christ given to those who are born again (Rev. 20:5-6). The reference in verse 29 is to the general physical resurrection of all mankind which occurs on the last day (Jhn. 6:40, 44, 11: 24). This last (Greek word *eschatos*) day is the return of Christ in all His glory with His mighty angels (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 13:36-43, 47-50, 24:27-31, 25:31-46; 2Thess. 1:7-10).

The word resurrection (Greek *anastasis*) literally means "a standing." It is a paramount theme in the Scriptures (1Cor. 15:12-19). Paul warns against those who say the resurrection has already occurred (2Tim. 2:18). The resurrection and Christ's return is neither secret nor silent. There is no so called "secret rapture" found in 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Most importantly, Christ is "our standing," for He is the resurrection and the life (Jhn. 11:25)!