

## I. Introduction

Psalm 115:3

3 But our God is in the heavens;  
He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 135:5–7

5 For I know that the LORD is great  
And that our Lord is above all gods.  
6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does,  
In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.  
7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth;  
Who makes lightnings for the rain,  
Who brings forth the wind from His treasuries.

A. Isaiah 53:10

1. The Father was pleased with the Son because the Son obediently let the Father crush Him so that through His death, there would come the redemption of many (i.e. the sons of God).
2. This is the perspective that the church needs to regain.

B. What is crucial to understand in all of this is that all the requirements that God had for righteousness, in order for God to love Him, Jesus met.

1. God's love is conditional.
2. He does not love wickedness.
  - a) Psalm 5:4-7, 11-2
  - b) Psalm 11:4-7
  - c) Psalm 45:6-7

Deuteronomy 12:28–32

28 “Be careful to listen to all these words which I command you, so that it may be well with you and your sons after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

29 “When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land,

30 beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’

31 “You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God, for every abominable act which the LORD hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

32 “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

## Deuteronomy 16:21–22

**21** “You shall not plant for yourself an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the altar of the LORD your God, which you shall make for yourself.

**22** “You shall not set up for yourself a *sacred* pillar which the LORD your God hates.

## C. Isaiah 1:10-15

## Isaiah 61:8

8 For I, the LORD, love justice,  
I hate robbery in the burnt offering;  
And I will faithfully give them their recompense  
And make an everlasting covenant with them.

D. So, it is clear that God does hate.

1. He hates those who love violence.
2. He hates those who feign worship while holding on to abomination.
3. He hates those who love to worship idols.

E. It is true: God hates the wicked.

1. He has a righteous hatred.
2. He is not unjust to hate sinners.

F. But, it is also true that He loves the righteous.

1. And this is the point of this passage today.
2. God loves and takes pleasure in the one who is inherently righteous and behaves such.

G. You will see that God's love is conditional and is predicated upon perfect righteousness.

1. Perfect obedience.
2. Perfect Law observance.
3. Perfect compassion.
4. Perfect mercy.
5. Perfect holiness.
6. Perfect patience.

H. The conditions that result in the pleasure of God are absolute holy, righteous perfection, even to the degree that He is perfect.

1. Matthew 5:48

## Exodus 19:6

and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

## Leviticus 11:44

‘For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

Leviticus 20:7

'You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:26

'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

1 Peter 1:16

because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

I. But, this is the point isn't it? Neither you, nor I, are this holy, this righteous, this perfect!

1. The conditions that CAUSE God to love a person are simply not attainable by us.

2. However, the very righteousness that pleases the Father and causes Him to shower His love on a person was accomplished, lived out, conducted by, Jesus Christ.

a) Or, Jesus Christ was loved by the Father because of His perfections.

b) Jesus was holy and, because of that, God loved Him.

J. This is what Jesus is telling these Pharisees: they are not the sheep of God, they are not loved by God, they are not the pleasure of God because they do not believe in Him.

1. John 9:40-41

2. John 10:6-7

3. These men were darkened by their own lusts and God was not pleased with them.

4.

- The Unity of God-vv. 17-18
- The Division of the Jews-vv.19-21

## The Unity of God- vv. 17-18

### II. v. 17 "The Father loves me because of this, that I lay down/place my soul in order that I might receive it again."

- A. This is why the Father loves Him.
1. What kind of love is this?
    - a) Is it conditional?
    - b) Or, is this unconditional?
  
  2. How does this behavior promote love for the Son by the Father?
    - a) Jesus is telling these Pharisees that the Father is pleased with Him because He willingly laid down His life.

(1) Why would the Father be pleased with that?

- (a) Was it because of the benefit that it would mean to us?
- (b) Was it because of the act of atonement that pleased the Lord?
- (c) Or, was it the loving obedience that the Son demonstrated to the Father that most pleased the Father!?

(2) It would make the most sense that the Father was pleased with the Son's act of obedience because it demonstrated absolute love for the Father and that pleased Him.

- (a) The love of God is even more important than life, money, health, etc...
- (b) It is the love of/for God that God is extracting from us through sacrifice.

(i) Deuteronomy 13:4

(ii) This is why Israel was called repeatedly to love God and keep His commandments.

- (a) First, God plainly tells Israel that God loves those who love Him and keep His commandments - Exodus 20:6
- (b) Second, that, being the nature of YHWH, is also the ultimate expectation of God toward Israel as well - Deuteronomy 6:4-5

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

- (c) Third, Israel was repeatedly called to love God -
  - (i) Deuteronomy 7:9; 10:12, 11:1, 22; 19:9; 30:6, 20.
  - (ii) This would then be the pattern for loving others in Israel as well - Leviticus 19:18, 44; Deuteronomy 10:18-19.

*In sum, the reason for Jesus' statement is to demonstrate to these men that the Father loves Him because of His love for the Father demonstrated by laying down His life for the sheep at the Father's command.*

- (3) In saying this, there is conviction as well of their lack of love for the Father.

Luke 11:42–43

**42** “But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every *kind of* garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

**43** “Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.

John 5:41–42

**41** “I do not receive glory from men;

**42** but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

- (4) They are to be sons of God by reason of their being in Israel.
  - (a) Yet, a son is to love his father.
  - (b) But, they do not honor Him.

Malachi 1:6

**6** “ ‘A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’

- 3. This will come up again in vv. 34-36.

B. The love that the Father and the Son have is the love that we are to abide in, exercise, and enjoy.

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

1. John 15:9
2. John 17:24
3. Jude 20-21

### III. v. 18 "No one raises it up from Me, but I place it (down) from Myself; I have authority to lay it down; I have authority to receive it again. I received this commandment from My Father."

#### A. "No one raises it up from Me..."

1.
  - a) "raises it up" = "takes it away"
    - (1) Jesus is not such that anyone can do anything to Him except that He does it.
    - (2) See John 19:8-12
    - (3) Acts 2:22–23

**22** "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

- b) It simply is not conceivable that any man can ultimately have authority over God in any way.
- c) This includes the Son of God.
- d) Jesus is telling them that He lays down His life willingly, voluntarily, but not out of empty devotion.

#### B. "I lay it down Myself.."

1. This is a simple statement, but is far-reaching and weighty.
  - a) This statement makes the point that Jesus has complete decision-making over His own life.
  - b) This statement surely was confusing and dark to the hearts of these so-called leaders.
2. To "lay down" His life is to give it over to the purposes of another ending in death.
  - a)

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

3. The Lord is showing these men that He is doing what He is doing out of complete wholehearted devotion to the will of the Father.
  - a) There is no hesitation.
  - b) There is no doubt.
  - c) There is only love for the Father, no matter what He tells Him to do.
4. Jesus demonstrates His love for the Father.
  - a) John 14:31
  - b) 1 Peter 2:8-25
    - (1) Jesus kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.
    - (2) Notice that this was the motive behind His behavior.

## C. "I have authority to lay it down; I have authority to receive it again."

1. What does this mean that He had "authority"?
  - a) "authority" = "right," "power," "obligation."
  - b) He had the right, power, to lay down His life (for His sheep).
2. Where did He get this right?

## D. "I received this commandment from My Father."

1. This is the source of this "right" to lay down His life for the sheep-the Father.

## a) Here is the scenario:

(1) The Father has an eternal plan:
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- (a) Ephesians 3:8–11

- (i) 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

- (b) 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

- (c) 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

- (d) 11 *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

(2) This eternal plan begins and ends as a gift to the Son:
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- (a) Psalm 2:8

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

(b) 8 ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,

(a) And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.

(3) This plan includes the fall of the sons of God into sin by the deception of the evil one:

## Hebrews 2:14–15

**14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

(4) This plan depends upon the obedience of the Son to the Father's will:

## Hebrews 2:9–10

9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

**10** For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

## Philippians 2:5–8

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(1) And, in order to display the love that the Father and the Son have for one another to the angels, demons, and men, Jesus Christ willingly obeyed the commandment of God to pay the penalty of unrighteousness for the sons of God.

(2) To see how the Lord understood the commandment of the Father and the dynamics of all the distinctions between the wicked Pharisees and their lack of love for God, and Jesus' obedience for the sake of the pleasure of God:

(a) **John 12:37-50**

(b) And these are the words that Jesus spoke (John 6:68).

- (i) Therefore, we are called to this same loving obedience.
- (ii) We must obey because we love the Father even as the Son does.

## The Division of the Jews –Vv. 19-21

### IV. v. 19 "A schism came to be again among the Jews because of these words."

B. It is again because Jesus continually divided the Jews with His Words.

John 7:43

43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.

John 9:16

16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

C. What was the source of this schism?

1. It was the Word of Christ.
2. However, it was also the condition of their hearts as well.

D. James 3:13-18

1. Matthew 13:22–23

22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

E. And, it is the same in the church as well.

1. When there is disunity, there is a sure sign of selfish ambition somewhere.
2. Therefore, the only way to clear up disunity is to teach clearly and comprehensively.

1 Corinthians 11:17–19

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

**17** But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

**18** For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

**19** For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

## V. v. 20 "But many ones said from of them, "He has a demon and is insane! Why (do) you hear of Him?!"

A. Here is the sure sign of selfishly ambitious and darkened hearts-mockery and accusation.

B. Jesus has been called insane before:

Mark 3:20–22

**20** And He \*came home, and the crowd \*gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.

**21** When His own people heard *of this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

**22** The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

C. Even Paul was called insane:

Acts 26:24–25

**24** While *Paul* was saying this in his defense, Festus \*said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! *Your* great learning is driving you mad."

**25** But Paul \*said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

D. The accusation of insanity carries with is the implication that the person is dangerous.
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1. That is the case for those who follow Christ as well today.

2. They will hurl accusations against you, even calling you insane.

Matthew 5:10–12

**10** "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

11 “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 4:12–16

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

16 but if *anyone* suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

## VI. v. 21 "Others said, "These words are not (from one) being demon-possessed. A demon cannot open blind eyes."

E. Here is sound judgment:

1. Words
2. Actions

F. Others, who probably were of less hard of heart, were reasoning and then defending Christ.

G. The words Jesus spoke were certainly unlike any they had heard from a demon-possessed man before.

1. Here is what a demon-possessed man looks like:
2. Mark 5:1–5

a) 1 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.

b) 2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

c) 3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain;

d) 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

e) 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

H. Does this look like Jesus?

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The Authority of Jesus – John 10:17-21

I. For someone to say that Jesus is a demon is to give attributes of deity to the demon, and demonic attributes to God.

## VII. Conclusion

1 John 5:20–21

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.