

Equal With God

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. 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.”

John 5:17-18 KJV

In essence Jesus is saying “My Father is working and therefore SO AM I!” Jesus working as a son with His Father could only be accomplished by a right understanding of who He was in relation to His Father. His position was critical to His cooperation with Father’s business. At some point during Jesus’ spiritual growth there had to come a revelation of who He was in His own eyes as well as in His Father’s eyes. Through knowing who He was in relation to His Father He was able to function proficiently in meeting the needs of people. By seeing Himself as equal with God, He was in position to flow with the workings of God.

For us to cooperate with God’s workings through us as Sons, we too must see our position accurately. We too must be mindful of what He was mindful of. In Philippians 2 we find Paul addressing the mindsets of the church at Philippi when he said, *“Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind ... let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus; who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made of himself no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”* (Phil. 2:2 & 5-7)

Personally I have struggled with this verse and could not see myself as equal with God. How could I be equal with God? I didn’t have much trouble accepting the role of a servant to humanity, but couldn’t come to grips with the “equal with God” portion of this scripture. It wasn’t until I found the difference between being equal “with” God and being equal “to” God that understanding came.

Humanistic thinking believes that you can be your own God and replace the Divine with self. To be equal “to” God would mean we could replace Him the same way a tire can be replaced on a car because it has an equal. I have found that as a man, I cannot replace God like a tire, but I *can* walk “with” Him because I am born in His class.

To be equal “with” God means I can relate to Him because of my “birth position”. Genesis 1:26 tells us that mankind was formed and fashioned in God’s likeness and His image. By virtue of our design, we can relate “with” God the same way an earthly father can relate with his son. There is a “working with” the Father that can take place when we see ourselves as Sons who are equal with Him.

The word “equal” in the Greek text means “to be similar”. It is not a word of replacement but of comparison. The word “with” is a function word that indicates “a close association to”. A son cannot replace his father, his father is an original creation, but he can function with him because he is like him. They can work together as a team because of their kindred-ship to each other. They are relatable and have similar characteristics.

When Jesus laid aside His deity to function as a man, He related to God as His Father, not as His replacement, but as His representative on the earth. His example to us is one of cooperation with the Father's plans through representation. We can see through Jesus' example that Father's plans have not changed for us. He intends for us to be representing Him as replicas of His love, His mercy, His generosity, His compassion, His healing virtues and more.

The new birth experience is the first step to being "equal with God". From there we are to be ever learning what He is really like and representing Him to the world around us. It is Satan's intent to keep us in the dark concerning the position we have with God. The whole theme of the Epistles is to teach us how to conduct ourselves as Sons of God. 1 John 4:17 tells us, "...as He is, so are we in this world." Our continued development in this reality will bring us to the place like Jesus where we can say, "My Father is working and therefore SO AM I!"

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For your love-gift of any amount this month, I want to send you a copy of the CD album titled "The Revealing of the Sons of God". This is a 3 CD set that I believe will help develop your thinking along the line of seeing yourself as a Son. Just send your love-gift along with your request by mail or by internet and we will see to it that it is delivered quickly.

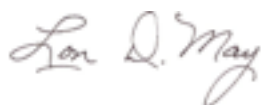
One of the reasons for our quarterly letter is keep you up to date on what the Lord is doing with this ministry. As a friend and partner with LMM we feel it proper to keep you informed as we move forward with the plan of God for this ministry.

Please join your faith with ours as we move into some different areas of outreach. We are currently researching our options to place "Inspirational Moments", 60 second commercials, on secular radio stations. With these spots we can reach people who love God but are standing outside the church walls with no input into their lives. With these infomercials we can direct them to our website and present them a non-religious message of God's present power.

We are also researching our options with I-Tunes. We believe our messages could be better heard if we have an outsource to make the messages available in MP3 format.

This ministry is endeavoring to reach people who are not currently being touched with the great news of God's goodness. Your continued prayerful and financial support is enabling us to reach those who are hungry for the truth of God's Word. Thanks to you we are continuing to receive reports of God's power being manifested as people are receiving God's love in personal ways.

We are beginning to see an increase of God's love revealed through creative miracles as people are receiving miracle pregnancies, body parts being restored and other internal body parts being healed. Thank you again for your faith in God in us as we move forward with the message that is bringing faith, fire and freedom to this generation! Triumphant In Christ,



Lon D. May