

Sermon Outlines

The Manhood of The Son of God

“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. 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.”
John 5:19, 20

Every fact in the life of Christ is to be a factor in ours - such as His purity, His power, His peacefulness, His pattern, His prospect. It is interesting and helpful to read the Gospels with the thought of discovering their teaching concerning the character of Jesus. We find Him taking the position of a man, living moment by moment through the Holy Spirit sent down from the Father. We are apt to forget His perfect Manhood in our effort to keep always in view His Pre-eminent Godhood and to defend it. Yet each is essential, and though it is difficult, perhaps impossible, to reconcile the two, or even always to distinguish between them, we must accept both.

John's Gospel is the fullest expression of this perfect Manhood of Christ. In these verses of the fifth chapter we shall find four great principles of His life, and also His relationship to His Father and a corresponding relation between Christ and the believer.

I. *Entire Dependence*

1. *The Position* - “The Son”

- (a) Life received - by Christ (John 5:26) - by the believer (John 1:12,13).
- (b) Life sustained - by Christ and by the believer (John 6:57).

2. *The Limitations* - “can do nothing of himself”

- (a) He is the Channel, not the Source (John 5:30; 6:38)
 - (b) He is the Instrument and the Agent (John 4:34); so is the believer (John 15:5).
- Identity of sympathy, will and action - therefore of life itself.

II. *Constant Obedience*

1. *Watching* - “but what he seeth the Father do”

- (a) Contemplating, learning, admiring, loving.
- (b) The Work done - the Worker doing it.

2. *Imitating* - “these also doeth the Son likewise”

- (a) The Matter - work for good of man and glory of God.
- (b) The Manner - perfectly in character - appropriately for object.

III. *Blessed Intimacy*

1. *Loving* - “the Father loveth the Son”

Interest and affection

2. *Revealing* - “sheweth him all things that himself doeth”

- (a) Privilege of intimacy - love has no secrets.
Cf. Psalm 25:14; John 13:23-26
- (b) Extent of intimacy - “all things” - need of open mind and heart to receive.
Cf. Epignosis of Paul's Epistles, e.g. 1 Cor. 13:12

IV. *Growing Experience*

- 1. *The Promise* - “he will shew him greater works than these” - Cf. miracle in John 5:1-16 with verse 21 - “quickeneth” (see chap. 11) and verse 22 - “judgment” (distant future).

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2. *The Purpose* - "that ye may marvel"

Strange things" (Luke 5:26) seen may result in faith by world or may not; but marvelling also follows faith, so we may take it to ourselves as we watch the Lord's working.

Conclusion

Blessed intimacy and growing experience are only possible when entire dependence and constant obedience characterize the life. All are necessary to a full, effective Christian testimony. Are we following our Lord's perfect example?

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*