

## **Jn. 5:25-29 (WCF 2:3) “Son of God and Son of Man”**

**For the Children:** Some years ago, you got your life from your parents. You were born at a particular time, perhaps in a hospital or at home. You are not the same as your parents, but you get your “genes” from them, so you are like them in certain ways – hair and eye colour, height, strength, intelligence etc. All of that was, of course, under God’s control. The relationship between God the Father Almighty and the Son of God is much harder for us to understand. The Father has always been the Father and the Son has always been the Son, with no beginning and no end. The Father and the Son are both fully God. They never change who they are. They are in perfect unity. But in some way we do not understand, the Son has always been coming “out of” the Father. Even if we don’t understand it, we can accept that it is true, because God says it in His Word.

**Questions:** Why did many of the Jews become angry when Jesus said that He was equal with God? How does He show that He is equal by giving life to His people? How does the Final Judgement show that equality?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Eternal Generation of the Son of God**

- 1) The Father’s Life: The Father has life “in Himself.” He is “Self-existent” – He does not receive life from anyone else. That is why He is called “Father” – He is of none; He gives life, rather than receiving it.
- 2) The Son’s Life: The Son also has life “in Himself” – He, as God, is also Self-Existent, like the Father (“even so,” “in like manner”). We therefore confess that the Father eternally generates the Son, communicating the entire Divine Essence to Him. Unlike the situation with human fathers begetting human sons, this does not involve a starting-point; it is not a partial communication eg., of genes; it does not lead to 2 separate beings. It involves no change for Father and Son, who always exist in perfect unity within the Godhead. See the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, BCF 10 and WCF 2:3. This doctrine is based on the meaning of the words “Father” and “Son,” statements about their equality; the Son being “only-Begotten” and that the Son comes “out of” the Father (Jn.16:28).

#### **Second Point: The Mission of the Son of Man**

- 1) The Son of Man Coming: The language of the Son of Man coming (vss. 25,28) draws on Daniel 7:13-14, the vision of the coming Messiah in His “given” glory, dominion and kingdom. The Messiah comes in time, in a role that involves His submission to His Father’s will. He comes as both God and man. Therefore He can be “given” authority for His mission, and given life to share with others (v.26; Mt.28:18).
- 2) A Messianic Role Fitted to His Eternal Relationship with the Father: The reason why the Messiah can give life to others is because, as God, He always has fullness of life from the Father. His role in time is fitted to His eternal relationship with the Father. The same is true of His Messianic authority: He can be *given* all authority in His Messianic mission, because as God, He always *has* all authority.
- 3) What the Final Judgement Therefore Shows: With that authority, the Lord Jesus will call the dead to be judged by Him. He will execute judgement, giving eternal life to those whose good deeds demonstrate that they have listened to His Voice and received spiritual life from Him; but the judgement of hell to those whose evil deeds show that they have never received spiritual life from Him. Because He could only exercise that authority and give life on the basis of His eternal relationship with the Father, this judgement shows that He has equality with the Father – the point that so upset many of the crowd (v. 18).

### **Conclusion:**