

## Jesus Claims Equality with God

### John 5:16-24 Part 2

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- 17** But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”
- 18** Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
- 19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.
- 20** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.
- 21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.
- 22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,
- 23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
- 24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

# Introduction

The Mormon movement began with "the prophet" Joseph Smith, Jr. in the year 1820. Joe (as he was known) was born to some rather strange parents in 1805. His mother, Lucy, was involved in occult practices and visions, while his father, Joseph, Sr., consumed much time with imaginary treasure digging (including the booty of Captain Kidd).

According to Mormon writings (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith - History 1:1-25), on a day in 1820, Joe was praying in the woods when he received a vision from God the Father and Jesus. It was revealed to Joe that the church was in apostasy and he was the chosen one to launch a new dispensation.

Being unwilling to drop his current occupation of money-digging with his father (while using "peep stones" and "divining rods"), Joe put his "calling" on hold for three years. Then, according to his own account (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith - History 1:29-54), he was paid a bedside visit by the angel Moroni in 1823. Moroni, who professed to be the glorified son of a man named Mormon (who had been dead 1400 years), told Joe about a book of golden plates which contained "the fulness of the everlasting Gospel." This book was said to have been buried at Cumorah Hill, near Palmyra, New York, some 1400 years earlier by the man named Mormon. Four years later (1827), Joe supposedly dug up the golden plates along with a gigantic pair of spectacles which he called "the Urim and Thummim." The spectacles were for translating the hieroglyphics on the plates. With the help of his only legal wife and a friend named Oliver Cowdery, Joe translated the plates and published the Book of Mormon in 1830. Later that same year, Joe, his wife, his brothers (Hyrum and Samuel), and

Cowdery established the "Church of Jesus Christ," which is known today as the "Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints." The Book of Mormon contains many plagiarisms of the King James English (at least 25,000 words). This is strange since the plates were supposed to have been in the ground many centuries before the King James Bible was completed in 1611! The Book of Mormon also contains many errors such as claims of elephants in the Western Hemisphere and advanced metal producing capabilities in America before 400 A.D. (See Walter Martin's Kingdom of the Cults for a fine study in the errors of the Mormon Bible)

The Mormons, under Smith's command, turned out to be a rough bunch. Joe was a polygamist with at least twenty- seven wives (some say over 60 wives). The whole gang left New York for Ohio, and then moved to Missouri. The Missouri governor ran them out of the state, so they settled in Nauvoo, Illinois, and built the state's largest city. In 1844, Joe and Hyrum were thrown in jail. Then an angry mob stormed the jail and murdered them both. Naturally, this "martyrdom" insured the perpetual reverence of the great "prophet" Joseph Smith.

The "church" then split. The Smith family headed for Independence, Missouri and started what is now the "Recognized Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints." However, the majority of Smith's followers chose Brigham Young as their new captain.

To escape U.S. laws, Young led the Mormons from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City in 1847 (which then belonged to Mexico). For the next thirty years, Young and his "saints" laid the foundation stones of the Mormon cult.

Little known to most Mormons, Young was a rather rough and ruthless character. In 1857, he commanded Bishop John D. Lee to murder a wagon train of over one hundred helpless non-Mormon immigrants. Twenty years later Lee was convicted and executed by the U.S. Government. Young escaped punishment, and his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre has escaped the Mormon history books.

Young spent most of his "ministry" dodging the law to continue the immoral practice of polygamy. At the time of his death in 1877, Young had seventeen wives and fifty-six children.

Today the Mormon church is administrated by its "General Authorities." These authorities consist of the "First Presidency," the "Counsel of Twelve Apostles," the "First Quorum of the Seventy" and its presidency, the "Presiding Bishoprick," and the "Patriarch of the Church."

Male Mormons over twelve years of age are divided into priesthoods. The Aaronic order is the lesser priesthood, and the Melchizedek order is the higher.

The church is divided into thousands of "wards" and "stakes," with over 2000 branches and 180 missions, and over 5,000,000 members.

Mormons are very missionary-minded people, with over 26,000 active missionaries. However, much of this missionary army consists of young men and women in their early twenties who must serve two years in missionary work while supporting themselves.

The Mormon people of today are highly respected in our society, but there is nothing respectable about their doctrines. Some are as follows:

### **The Deity of Man Promoted**

Mormons teach that man can become God, and that God was once a man:

"God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified, exalted immortal resurrected man!" (Bruce McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, pp. 322-23, 517, 643)

"...God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder heavens..." (Journal of Discourses, V6, P3, 1844)

"As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become." (Lorenzo Snow, quoted in Milton R. Hunter, the Gospel Through the Ages, pp. 105-106)

This is plain and simple heresy. Nowhere does the Bible say or imply that God was ever a man, or that man can become God!

Malachi 3:6 says, "For I am the LORD, I change not..." How could this be true if God was once a man? Genesis 1:1 states that God existed "in the beginning" before man was ever created. John 4:24 states that God is a "spirit," and Jesus tells us in John 1:18 that no man has seen God at any time. Numbers 23:19 says that "God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent." God has always been God, and no one has ever "become" God.

### **Deity of Jesus Christ Denied**

The Deity of Jesus Christ is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity, yet the Mormons deny this truth. Exalting man to "god status" is apparently alright, but Jesus Christ is not acknowledged as the eternal Son of God in the Mormon church. The Mormon Jesus was a preexisting spirit who was exalted, just as Mormon followers hope to be exalted someday.

- Joseph Smith claimed to be a "prophet." He frequently prophesied future events "by the power of God." Many of these prophecies are recorded in the LDS scripture *Doctrine and Covenants*. Almost none have been fulfilled, and many cannot now be fulfilled because the deeds to be done by the persons named were never done and those persons are now dead. Many prophecies included dates for their fulfillment, and those dates are now long past, the events never having occurred.
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- Joseph Smith died not as a martyr, but in a gun battle in which he fired a number of shots. He was in jail at the time, under arrest for having ordered the destruction of a Nauvoo newspaper which dared to print an exposure

(which was true) of his secret sexual liaisons. At that time he had announced his candidacy for the presidency of the United States, set up a secret government, and secretly had himself crowned "King of the Kingdom of God."

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- Since the founding of the church down to the present day the church leaders have not hesitated to lie, to falsify documents, to rewrite or suppress history, or to do whatever is necessary to protect the image of the church. Many Mormon historians have been excommunicated from the church for publishing their findings on the truth of Mormon history.
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- Trying to determine the truth by relying entirely on the feelings one gets after praying is not a reliable way to learn the truth. One can easily deceive oneself into "feeling" something that is really not true at all. The only reliable way to get to the truth is to examine verifiable facts.
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- Mormonism includes many other unusual teachings which you will probably not be told about until you have been in the church for a long time. These teachings are not revealed to investigators or new converts because those people are not yet considered ready to have more than "milk" as doctrine. The Mormons also probably realize that if investigators knew of these unusual teachings they would not join the church. In addition to

those mentioned elsewhere in this article, the following are noteworthy:

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- God was once a man like us.
- God has a tangible body of flesh and bone.
- God lives on a planet near the star Kolob.
- God ("Heavenly Father") has at least one wife, our "Mother in Heaven," but she is so holy that we are not to discuss her nor pray to her.
- Jesus was married.
- We can become like God and rule over our own universe.
- There are many gods, ruling over their own worlds.
- Jesus and Satan ("Lucifer") are brothers, and they are our brothers - we are all spirit children of Heavenly Father
- Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father by having sex with Mary, who was temporarily his wife.
- We should not pray to Jesus, nor try to feel a personal relationship with him.
- The "Lord" ("Jehovah") in the Old Testament is the being named Jesus in the New Testament, but different from "God the Father" ("Elohim").
- In the highest degree of the celestial kingdom some men will have more than one wife.
- Before coming to this earth we lived as spirits in a "pre-existence", during which we were tested; our position in this life (whether born to Mormons or savages, or in America or Africa) is our reward or punishment for our obedience in that life.

- Dark skin is a curse from God, the result of our sin, or the sin of our ancestors. If sufficiently righteous, a dark-skinned person will become light-skinned.
- The Garden of Eden was in Missouri. All humanity before the Great Flood lived in the western hemisphere. The Ark transported Noah and the other survivors to the eastern hemisphere.
- Not only will human beings be resurrected to eternal life, but also all animals - everything that has ever lived on earth - will be resurrected and dwell in heaven.
- Christ will not return to earth in any year that has seen a rainbow.
- Mormons should avoid traveling on water, since Satan rules the waters.
- The sun receives its light from the star Kolob.
- If a Gentile becomes Mormon, the Holy Ghost actually purges his Gentile blood and replaces it with Israelite blood.
- A righteous Mormon will actually see the face of God in the Mormon temple.
- You can identify a false angel by the color of his hair, or by offering to shake his hand.

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**20** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

**21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

**22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

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# Lesson

- I. He Is Equal in Nature
- II. He is Equal in Works
- III. He is Equal in Life
- IV. He is Equal in Judgement
- V. He is Equal in Worship
- VI. He is Equal in Salvation

## I. He Is Equal in Nature

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**16** For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

**5:16. Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath.** In addition to the case of the invalid’s healing (5:1–15), John later recorded the cure of a blind man on the Sabbath (chap. 9). The grain-picking (Mark 2:23–28), the healing of a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1–5), curing a woman who had been crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10–17), and healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1–6)—all these took place on the Sabbath. As seen in these passages, Jesus’ theology or philosophy of

the Sabbath differed from that of His opponents. His opponents in the controversy were progressively humiliated while the crowds favored Him. The opponents' response was to persecute Jesus by opposing Him and trying to kill Him (John 5:16, 18; 7:19, 25).

Blum, E. A. (1985). John. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 290). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

**17** But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

**17, 18. My Father worketh hitherto and I work**—The “I” is emphatic; “The creative and conservative activity of My Father has known no sabbath-cessation from the beginning until now, *and that is the law of My working.*”

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 136). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

*John 5:17*

**Answered** (ἀπεκρίνατο [*apekrinato*]). Regular aorist middle indicative of ἀποκρίνομαι [*apokrinomai*], in John here only and verse 19, elsewhere ἀπεκριθη [*apekrithē*] as in verse 11. **My Father** (ὁ πατερ μου [*ho pater mou*]). Not “our Father,” claim to peculiar relation to the Father. **Worketh even until now** (ἕως ἄρτι ἐργάζεται [*heōs arti ergazetai*]). Linear present middle indicative, “keeps on working until now” without a break on the Sabbath. Philo points out this fact of the continuous activity of God. Justin Martyr, Origen and others note this fact about God. He made the Sabbath for man’s blessing, but cannot observe it himself. **And I work** (καγω ἐργάζομαι [*kagō ergazomai*]). Jesus puts himself on a

par with God's activity and thus justifies his healing on the Sabbath.

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 5:17). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

5:17. God rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2–3) from His work of Creation. But Jesus pointed to the continuous **work** of God as a justification for His Sabbath activity. God sustains the universe, begets life, and visits judgments. It is not wrong for His Son to do works of grace and mercy on the Sabbath.

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**19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the **Son can do** nothing of Himself, but what He sees the **Father do**; for whatever **He does**, **the Son** also **does** in like manner.

**20** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that **He Himself does**; and He will show Him **greater works** than these, that you may marvel.

5:19. **Jesus** explained that He is not independent of or in opposition to **the Father**. His activity is not self-initiated. The **Father** directs and has sent **the Son**. The Son's activity imitates the Father, and the Two always work together.

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The Son can do nothing of Himself. In other words, He doesn't operate independently from God. Every human being operates independently from God. We couldn't possibly blame God for everything we do. No human being could say, “Whatever God does, I do and that's all I do, I only do what

God does, I do nothing else.” That is such an outrageous claim coming from the lips of a man, and here stands this Galilean carpenter in a normal Galilean garb with His sandals on and His feet dirty from the dust of Jerusalem, looking into the eyes of these Jewish leaders and telling them that He is of the same nature as the eternal God and that He only does what the Father does. Perfect unity with the Father...and by the way, it’s a unity defined as love, based...that’s a love-based unity, the Father loves the Son and therefore shows Him all things that He Himself is doing. The Father will show Him greater works than these so that you will marvel.<sup>7</sup>

## **Jesus does the Works of God**

### **1. Creation**

**John 1:1-3** - Jesus was in the beginning with God, was God, and all things were made through Him. Without Him nothing was made that was made.

**Colossians 1:16,17** - By Him (Jesus - v13-15) were all things created, things in heaven and on earth, etc. He existed before them all. They all consist in Him, and were created through Him and for Him.

**Hebrews 1:2** - The worlds were made through the Son.

**Hebrews 1:10** - The Lord (Jesus - v8) laid the foundation of the earth. The heavens are the work of His hands. [

### **2. Sustaining**

**Colossians 1:17** - As in other passages above regarding God, having said that Jesus created all things, Paul adds that "in Him all things consist." It is by Jesus' power that all things continue to exist.

**Hebrews 1:3** - The Son made the worlds (v2), and He upholds all things by the word of His power.

**Hebrews 1:12** - Not only did the Son (v8) make the heavens and earth (v10), but they will cease to exist when He "folds them up."  
 What God has created, only He can sustain. All created things began to exist and continue to exist by His power. Created beings derive their life from God.

### 3. Redeeming

**John 4:42** - The Samaritans confessed Jesus to be the Savior of the world. [Luke 2:11]

**Titus 1:3,4** - God is our Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior. How can Jesus be less than God in such a description?

**Titus 2:13,14** - Jesus is our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He gave Himself to redeem us from sin so we might become His special people. [See notes on this passage under names of Deity.] [2 Peter 1:1,11; 2:20; 3:18]

**Acts 4:12** - There is salvation in no one other than Jesus.

**Mark. 2:1-12; Luke 7:48,49** - Jesus had power on earth to directly forgive sins. This is a work only God can do. Hence, for Jesus to claim this power would have been blasphemy if He were not God.

**Ephesians 1:7** - We have redemption through Jesus' blood, even the forgiveness of sins. [Colossians 1:13,14]

Jesus is not classed with the creatures in need of redemption. He is the redeemer.

### 4. Ruling

**Revelation 17:14**

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings,

and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

### **1 Corinthians 8:6**

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

### **2 Corinthians 4:5**

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

### **Romans 10:9**

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **5. Judging**

**John 12:47-48** - All men will be judged according to Jesus' words.

- 47** And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.
- 48** He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.



**Matthew 25:31-46** - All nations will be gathered before the Son of Man. He will separate them and send them into eternal punishment or eternal life.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** - We must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in the body, good or bad.

**John 5:22,23** - The Father does not judge anyone but has given all judgment to the Son. [Acts 17:31]

Judging mankind for their lives and determining their eternal destiny are unique works of God. Yet Jesus is the one who will do that work. He is not classed with the created beings whose works will be judged by God. He is classed with God who will judge the works of the creatures.

### **III. He is Equal in Life**

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

#### **Dt 32:39**

39 'Now see that I, *even I, am* He,  
And *there is* no God besides Me;  
I kill and I make alive;  
I wound and I heal;  
Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.

**Ro 4:17**

**17** (as it is written, “*I have made you a father of many nations*”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

**Jn 11:25–26**

**25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

**26** And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

**Jn 17:1–3**

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

**2** as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

**3** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**Jn 1:3–4**

**3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

**4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**Jn 14:6**

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.

**Col 3:4**

4 When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5:21. One of the prerogatives of Deity is the right over **life** and death. (A king of Israel asked Naaman, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life?” [2 Kings 5:7]) One of Jesus’ “greater” works (John 5:20) is the giving of life. **The Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it**, just as He chose to heal one man out of a crowd of disabled people. The giving of life includes spiritual (eternal) life and a resurrected body. The resuscitation of Lazarus (chap. 11) would illustrate both.

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**Quickeneth whom he will** (οὐς θελει ζωοποιει [*hous thelei zōopoiei*]). Present active indicative of ζωοποιεω [*zōopoieō*] (from ζωοποιος [*zōopoios*], making alive), common in Paul (1 Cor. 15:45, etc.)

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 5:21). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

No matter how much scientists learn about the complexities of organisms, they have not touched the more difficult questions—what is life itself, and where did it come from?

Have you ever thought about what life actually is? What mysterious quality makes a creature alive at one moment but is absent the instant the creature dies? A baby’s body, no longer breathing after it

has just died, contains the same DNA, the same heart and body, and the same mass as it did only moments earlier. So what is missing? An entry in Wikipedia admits, “There is no universal definition of life; there are a variety of definitions proposed by different scientists.” The latest Encyclopedia Britannica agrees: “There is no generally accepted definition of life.” Nevertheless, the encyclopedia’s online version attempts a clunky definition with lots of complex scientific terms:

A biochemical or molecular biological definition sees living organisms as systems that contain reproducible hereditary information coded in nucleic acid molecules and that metabolize by controlling the rate of chemical reactions using proteinaceous catalysts known as enzymes.

Such definitions don’t actually state what life is, merely what we see in living things. For instance, the biologist and philosopher Harold J. Morowitz comments that living things have one thing in common—cells: “The only life we know for certain is cellular.”<sup>1</sup>

The teaching guidelines for British textbooks suggest that students ages 11 to 14 learn that life is anything that displays seven qualities, summarized in the cute mnemonic MRS. GREN. That is, living objects have Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, Growth, Reproduction, Excretion, and Nutrition. These properties are typical of cellular life, but they still don’t say what life actually is.

To help us understand the problem with defining life, a cell can be compared to a powerful computer—a highly sophisticated system that stores and processes information. There is more to a working computer than its physical parts—it needs a designer, a programmer, and

an engineer to build its parts. Then it needs a source of power and an operator to turn it on.

Advanced as computer technology may become, a living thing is still leaps beyond. Despite its complexity, the computer is not alive.

Consider a house fly buzzing about an office on a blistering day. If the power shuts down, the computer “dies,” but it can be rebooted after the power is re-stored. Not so with the fly.

### **No Definition in Scripture**

While the Bible makes a big deal about the wonders of life, it never actually denies it. God introduced this special thing on Day Five of creation: “And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life” (Genesis 1:20, KJV).

The Hebrew word used for the quality of having life is nephesh. Leviticus 17:11 shows us that this life is related to having blood: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

The word nephesh is translated in this particular verse as life, but also as soul. Yet, although the life is in the blood, this verse does not tell us what life actually is.

The sort of life described in the Bible is not physical. While life clearly produces physical results that we can observe, that quality called “life” is something intangible.

### **Life, by God’s Command**

No matter how much scientists discover about the physical systems in organisms and their possible origin, they still have no clue about the infinitely more difficult question of where life came from. If you could make a baby from scratch, with all its physical parts in place, you still would not have a living human.

The Bible gives us the answer. Life is a gift from God, a blessing from the Creator Himself. By God’s command, not physical accident, it is granted or removed.

“And [Job] said, Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).

Even if we do not understand what life is, all humans can “see” it all around them. They also know in their hearts that the Life-Giver makes all this life possible. God uses even the mysteries of His creation to make Himself known!

“I Am . . . the Life”

In fact, human life encompasses more than the “life” of animals. After Adam and Eve rebelled against their Creator, humans forfeited their right to life in this higher sense. While our bodies may be full of vigor and outward vitality, the Bible says we are dead. The world is one big spiritual graveyard, with zombies that appear to be living but are missing another quality that is infinitely more significant than breath or physical mobility.

To restore this life—everlasting life—the life-giver Jesus Christ stepped into our world. The Creator made this life available to all, but we have it in only one place: “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). God’s hand is at the switch, and He asks only that we look to Him in faith, trusting in the merits of His Son, who was the sacrifice for our sin, that we might obtain life everlasting.

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

Answers in Genesis

## **1 Th 4:13–18**

**13** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
- 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words

If Jesus Christ shares the nature of God, we are called to worship Him ***without cessation***, obey Him ***without hesitation***, love Him ***without reservation*** and serve Him ***without interruption***.  
To Him be all glory for ever - Milne

## **IV. He is Equal in Judgement**

22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

## **V. He is Equal in Worship**

**23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

## **VI. He is Equal in Salvation**

**24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.



**A. T. Robertson** calls the Gospel according to John the "most wonderful of all books."

What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be,  
Some day your heart will be asking,  
"What will he do with me?"