

who had given Jesus authority to judge, and He also said these words:

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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...I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (Jn. 5:19, 30).

Some claim that John 10:30 proves that Jesus and the Father are equal in every way. While Jesus was on earth He said, "*I and my Father are one*" (Jn. 10:30). Jesus and the Father were one in nature, one in mindset, and were united in will and purpose. However, they did not have the same authority. Consider the fact that in the same book John records Jesus praying for all of His followers to be "*one*" (Jn. 17). Does that mean that all of Jesus' followers have the same authority? All Christians are equal in some ways, but not equal in all ways. For example, there are some called "*elders*" who have "*the rule over*" the local congregations with whom they worship (1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:7, 17). Since Jesus said Christians are all to be one, does that mean that every Christian has the same authority as elders? Being united as "*one*" in mind and purpose does not mean Christians are all exactly the same in every way, or equal in authority.

Please notice Jesus' own words from the same Book of John: "...my Father is greater than I" (Jn. 14:28). If Jesus were equal with His Father in every way, why would Jesus say that His Father was greater? They were equal in some ways, but not all ways. Besides the difference in authority, there was also unequal knowledge. There was at least one thing the Father knew that the Son did not. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, <u>neither the Son</u>, but the Father" (Mk. 13:31-32; cf. Lk. 2:52).

## AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION

The Father was over the Son in authority before Jesus' death on the cross, but what about when Jesus returned from the grave? When Jesus said He had been given all authority in heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18), that did not mean that Jesus was over God the Father in authority, or even equal with the Father in authority in every way. It was the Father who gave His Son that authority, and the Father was excepted in that

statement. After Jesus had returned from the grave, He said all authority has been given to Him, but He also said that God the Father was His God (His Supreme Ruler). *"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to <u>my God</u>, and <i>your God"* (Jn. 20:17). Therefore, God the Father was still the God (Ruler, Head) of Jesus, even though Jesus had been given the *"authority"* mentioned in Matthew 28:18.

## FROM JESUS' ASCENSION TO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

The reader will recall the pattern of God accomplishing things through the submissive Second Person of the Godhead: 1) in creation: "*God…created all things by* <u>Jesus Christ</u>" (Eph. 3:9; cf. 3:11; Jn. 4:1-2; Heb. 1:1; I Cor. 8:6); 2) in revelation: "*God… hath…spoken…by His Son*" (Heb. 1:1-2; cf. Jn. 17:8); 3) in reconciliation: "*God…reconciled* <u>us…by Jesus Christ</u>" (II Cor. 5:18; cf. Eph. 1:5; I Th. 5:9).

The same pattern will be seen in the following future events: 1) in the resurrection: "*He…<u>shall raise up us also by Jesus</u>*" (II Cor. 4:14); and 2) in the judgment: "*God <u>shall judge…by Jesus Christ</u>*" (Rom. 2:16; Acts 10:42; 17:30). All of this indicates that God is still the Head of Christ, even though Jesus is back in Heaven in His former glory. Again, He who sends is "greater" than He who is sent (Jn. 13:16; cf. Jn. 3:17; Heb. 3:1; I Jn. 4:14).

Nothing stated so far could be any clearer than this: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of <u>Christ is God</u>" (I Cor. 11:3). First Corinthians was written after Jesus was back in Heaven, yet it teaches that God is still the Head of Christ. It was not written in the past tense, as if the head of Christ was God. It is not as if that were only true before Jesus returned to Heaven. The term "head" implies someone who is over another in authority. Think of a head being positioned above a body that tells the body's members what to do. The plain teaching is that just as Christ has authority over the church and man has authority over the woman, God has authority over His glorified Son in Heaven. Note that a father and mother are both equally parents, but the father is the head of his wife, having God-given authority over her (cf. I Cor. 11:3). In a similar way, Members of the Godhead are all Deity (Mt. 28:19), but the Father is the Head, above all (Eph. 4:6).