



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 24, 2022

To Know Christ...

Can you imagine hearing someone say they love God, but seeking to kill Jesus, the Son of God? It is such a twisted perspective of being self-deceived. Yet, Jesus often dealt with this among God’s own people. In John 5, Jesus heals a lonely man who is dealing with life in despair. The sick man, who had dealt with this situation for 38 years, is now made to walk. He is healed so thoroughly that he can now pick up his own bedding (pallet) and walk away. But some Jews were telling the man, **“It is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”** (v10) The Jews even persecuted Jesus because He did these things on the Sabbath. Then Jesus said, **“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”** (v17) The reaction of the Jews to this truth is found in the next verse:

“For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was... breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

v19 **“... the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; ...”**

v23 **“... He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”**

These “devoutly” religious Jews loved God [they thought], but were seeking to KILL His Son, Jesus! Give me the God I’m comfortable with, not the Son of God who demands radical change within. They wanted Jesus dead because of the works He imitated from watching His Father work on the Sabbath. They wanted Jesus eliminated because He called God His Father. Then Jesus gave them a teaching to engrave on their hearts. **“Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.”** (v21) Wonder what they thought after hearing of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? {Kill both of them! John 12:10}

Jesus is saying in essence, you cannot honor My Father, and dishonor Me! If you have seen the Son, you have seen the Father. (John 14:9) Is our life so intertwined and reflective of the divine nature of God, that we should be able to say, “if you have seen me, you have seen the Father/Son”? That seems impossible to us, but it should be our striving goal. Or are we seeking to eliminate God from our lives when Jesus calls us to a higher road of being Christ-like? In John 5, we are either

the Jews who are walking away from Jesus OR we are the sick man who now walks by faith because of Jesus' instruction to do so. And the life we live in Christ may be highly offensive to those who claim to love God, the Father. Who do we imitate in John 5:1-23? **“Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.”** (v14)

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