

Equality and Sovereignty

Previously it has been established that Jesus is the Son of God because He was begotten/brought forth from the Father in the days of eternity. The question must be asked: is Jesus divine, equal with God and worthy of our worship? The answer becomes clear when one understands what Jesus inherited from his Father:

Name:

“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Hebrews 1:4

“Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.” Exodus 23:20

“Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.” Exodus 23:21

The Son of God inherited the name of God. He has God’s name in Him.

Biblically the “Name” means and signifies:

- Nature (Genesis 5:2)
- Character (Exodus 34:5-7)
- Identity (Proverbs 30:4)
- Reputation, fame, glory (Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1)
- Authority (John 5:43; John 10:25; Matthew 21:23;)
- Power (Luke 9:1; 10:17; Acts 4:7)

Not only did the Son of God inherit the nature of God from his Father, He also had the same life as his Father.

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;” John 5:26

God the Father gave His Son the same life He had. An immortal, original, underived life. He gave it to Him to have in Himself. Meaning, the Father made His Son an author of life, or a giver of life.

*“Just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants to.” **John 5:21** CEV*

“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Colossians 2:9

“..... For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;” Colossians 1:19

It was God’s will that His Son be Divine.

Does that make Jesus equal with God?

Yes, it does. Paul wrote:

*“Who, **being** in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”
Philippians 2:6*

What is the basis of His equality & Divinity (Godship)?

Is Jesus divine and equal with God because He is God the Son, the second member of the trinity? Or is He equal with God because He is the Son of God?

From what we have seen so far, the one God of the Bible is not a tri-unity of persons. It is God the Father. The Bible is very clear on that. He, the Father, is the Source of all things.

From the study of the verses presented so far, one cannot conclude a trinity.

If what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 8:6 is true; that to us there is one God and it is the Father; then the conclusion can never be that the one God of the bible is Father, Son and Spirit. Either Paul was wrong or the trinitarian theology is wrong. They can’t both be right.

This alone tells us that Jesus’s equality with God cannot be based on Him being God the Son the second member of the trinity.

Is Jesus equal with God?

*“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”
John 5:18*

The Jews understood that Jesus’s sonship makes Him equal with God:

*“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, **makest thyself God.**”
John 10:33*

*“Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?”
John 10:34*

“If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;” John 10:35

*“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; **because I said, I am the Son of God?**” John 10:36*

According to the Jews, claiming to be the Son of God was equal to claiming equality with God and claiming to be divine.

A child is as much a human as it's parents because it came out of them. It inherits their nature and life. This also applies to the Son of God. He inherited the nature and life (Divinity) of his Father. Thus, Jesus has the God nature.

Consider what is said in Hebrews:

“And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Hebrews 1:6

“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” Hebrews 1:7

*“But unto the **Son** he saith, Thy throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” Hebrews 1:8*

*“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; **therefore God, even thy God**, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” Hebrews 1:9*

Jesus is God because He is the Son of God (Vs 8). His Sonship is the basis of His Godship. The Jews were correct in understanding His claim to sonship equated a claim to divinity.

Do not miss what the rest of the passage says. Yes, Jesus is called God, but verse 9 says that the Father is the God of Jesus.

*“**therefore God, even thy God**, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness” Hebrews 1:9*

Jesus is divine and is called God because he is the Son of God and inherited the God nature of his Father. That is why He is worthy of our worship:

“That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.” John 5:23

Jesus also asked His followers to believe in Him in the same way they believed in God, making Himself equally the object of true faith. He said

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe **also** in me.” John 14:1*

So, to answer our question, yes, Jesus is equal with God as much as my son is equal to me.

The gospels clearly reveal the Sonship and Divinity of Jesus. The Father and the Son are two individual Divine beings possessing the God nature. Both have the power to raise the dead and give life, to create and judge. However, one, the Father, is the source of the Other and of all things.

The Bible reveals that the Father is:

1. The Ultimate Source of all things: 1 Corinthians 8:6, 2 Corinthians 5:18 , Romans 11:36; Ephesians 3:14,15

2. The God of Christ:
 - a. **Incarnation:** Matthew 27:46
 - b. **Post-glorification:-** John 20:17, Ephesians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:3. Revelation 3: 12, Hebrews 1:9
3. Exclusively called the Most High. (compare Psalms 78:17 with Isaiah 63:8-10) while Jesus is called the “Son of the Most High” Mark 5:7 / Luke 8:28
4. Is greater than all (John 10:29)
5. Head of Christ: 1 Corinthians 11:3
6. Above all (Ephesians 4:4-6).
7. Lord of Heaven and earth; Matthew 11:25 (see also Luke 10:21).

The Bible also reveals that Christ received from the Father:

- a. His life (John 5:26)
- b. His power and authority (Matthew 11:27; 28:18; John 5:22-27; 17:2)
- c. His Kingdom (Daniel 7:14; Luke 1:32; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:22)
- d. His right to receive worship (John 5:22-23; Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:6)
- e. His name (Philippians 2:9; Hebrews 1:4)
- f. All things (John 3:35; 13:3; Hebrews 1:2)

Jesus is equal with His Father in nature and divinity. But this does not mean a trinity, neither does it negate the truth that God the Father is the Source of all things.

The Bible presents an equality between the Father and the Son, but it maintains the sovereignty of the Father:

“And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”
1 Corinthians 15:28

When sin is finally dealt with, Jesus will be subject unto the Father; that God the Father might be all in all because the Father is the source of all things. He is the ultimate authority.

Jesus is the Son of God, begotten of Him in the days of eternity. This makes Him Divine. Equal with God in nature. Thus, He is referred to as God because He has the God nature.

The Bible is clear that Jesus’s equality with the Father does not negate the Father’s sovereignty. The Father is the One God of the Bible because He is the Source of all things including the life of His Son. Therefore, the Son is equal with God and yet subject to God.

The Sonship of Jesus is what brings both together. His Sonship explains His equality with God, His Father, and at the same time explains the sovereignty of the Father.