

THE TWO SIDES OF EQUALITY

Equality is a concept that is captured in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ severally. The misunderstanding of this concept in the relationship between God the Father and His Son has given rise to several erroneous doctrines among men in the Christian circles of today. This is our humble submission in an attempt to clear this error and throw some light on a perspective that shall point us in the right direction in Christ as it were. For by subtlety the enemy beguiles many and many are kept ignorant thereby.

Ps 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

In our discussion of the concept of Equality, we shall view it from two perspectives- EQUAL UNTO/TO and EQUAL WITH, scripturally speaking, anyway. On the surface it would seem as if there is no difference between the two phrases but there is and therein lieth the misconception in understanding and usage of equality when one is not able to distinguish between the two in the Bible.

The word Equality is a derivative of the word Equal. How does the dictionary define equal?

Equal means "The same in all respects". "Exactly identical, having the same value".

This definition explains "equal unto/to" but not "equal with". "Equal with" means "in the form of" something, but not that thing exactly, that is, an image of the true or real thing. While "Equal unto" means "equal to" that thing, that is, of the same power, glory, honour, status, class, level, grade without any distinction or difference.

When you are "equal unto" something that means that the thing is not and cannot be greater than you nor can you be less than it, rather you are on the same level and pedestal with that thing. But when you are "equal with" another, what it means is that that thing is greater than you but you have been elevated to "a by the side or beside" status to it, but yet not "equal to" it as it were.

"Equal with" does not negate being "greater than" but "equal unto" does. What you are "equal to" cannot be greater than you in any way but not what you are "equal with". What you are made to be "equal with" is greater than you still, because you can also be made lesser than it too. You can be "equal with" something but not "equal to" it, as it were.

A parable example of "equal unto" that Christ gave us can be referenced in

Mtt 20:1-6 (Vr.10) But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. **Vr.12** Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. (Every labourer irrespective of the hour he was engaged received a penny each).

A teaching of Christ illustrating perfectly the concept of “equal with” is the following relationships:

Mtt 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. **Vr.25** It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

The Disciple is not equal unto his master; servant is not equal unto his lord.

The Disciple can be equal with his master; the servant can be equal with his lord (as per both being called Beelzebub).

Jn 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (Equal with in persecutions).

Jn 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. **Vr.14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **Vr.15** For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you. **Vr.16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him (but the servant can be as his lord).

MAN VS WOMAN

Man was created and made before the Woman. A wife is “equal with” her husband, but not “equal to” her husband. How?

Man is **equal with** the Woman. How? (**I Pet 3:7** as heirs together of the grace of life; **I Cor. 11:11** Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. **Vr.12** For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God; **Rom 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God).

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

I Cor 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. (The woman is not the image of the man, as man is the image of God. Both were formed flesh and bone as well as made flesh and blood at their fall)

Woman is **not equal to** Man. How? (**I Pet 3:7** the wife as unto the weaker vessel; **I Tim 2:13** For Adam was first formed, then Eve; **I Cor. 11:3** and the head of the woman is the man. **Vr.7** For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. **Vr.8** For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. **Vr.9** Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man).

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; **Vr.22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. **Vr.23** And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

The concept of “Equal with” can be found in the various relationships involving God the Father, Christ, Man and angels, but not “Equal unto”. And because men are not able to distinguish between these concepts, errors in understanding of scriptures abound today as it were. We shall by his grace, take time to clear the ambiguity and subtly created thereof.

MAN VS ANGELS

The relationship between Man and Angels form good illustration of the combination of the Equality concept of “equal unto” and “equal with” as we can see below.

Lk 20:34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: **Vr.35** But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Vr.36** Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

On the last day, the day of the 1st Resurrection, Man as children of the resurrection, the children of God shall be “equal unto” the angels as per having the same celestial bodies with them.

Presently, Man as children of the world, having flesh and blood, is lesser than angels. How?

Hebr 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **Vr.7** Thou madest him a little lower than the angels;

2Pet 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

Also, Man presently can be said to be “equal with” the angels. How?

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: **I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren** that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Rev 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. **Vr.9** Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: **for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren** the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

I Cor. 3:9 For we are labourers together with God; (both man and angels)

When Man shall be glorified with Christ, also in the world to come, Man shall be greater than angels, being heirs of God which angels are not as it were.

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

Hebr 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

I Cor.6: 2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? **Vr.3** Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

CHRIST VS MAN

The relationship between Christ and Man forms a good illustration of the Equality concept of “equal with” but not “equal unto” as we shall see. “Equal with” connotes that though Christ is greater than Man yet God the Father made him to become like the fallen Man in order to accomplish the redemption work that He sent him into the world to do. Christ is our Lord and Master as it were. **Jn 13:12-17**

Hebr 2:6-18 (Vr.6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **Vr.7** Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy

hands: **Vr.8** Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. **Vr.9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. **Vr.11** For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. **Vr.13** And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. **Vr.14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same (equal with); that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **Vr.16** For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. **Vr.17** Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Jn 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; (equal with)

Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **Vr.5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, **Vr.6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **Vr.7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Jn 20:16 Jesus saith unto her, "Mary." She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. **Vr.17** 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 my God, and your God.**

Rev 3: 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne.

Phil 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men: **Vr.8** And being found in fashion as a man (as the Son of man), he humbled himself.

Christ as the Son of man was made "equal with" Man as flesh, but Man is never "equal to" Christ as the Son of God, a quickening spirit, the Lord from heaven. Why? **Jn 13:16; I Cor. 15:45,47**

Eph 2:10 For we are his (God's) workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Jn 3: 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. **Vr.32** And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

Jn 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

Jn 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (we are adopted sons of God, but Christ is the only begotten Son of God-**Gal 4:5**)

I Cor.11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ;

Man as the children of the resurrection shall be "equal with" Christ by reason of bearing the image of the heavenly (that is the image of Christ), being Christ like but not Christ himself (that is not equal to Christ). We shall sit at the right hand of Christ in his throne, even as God made Christ to sit at His right hand in His own throne. **Rev 3:21**

I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;

GOD THE FATHER VS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD

The relationship between God the Father and Christ, His Son forms another illustration of the Equality concept of "equal with" but not "equal unto" as was the case between Christ and Man also. Christ is not equal unto/to God, but as the Son of God, a quickening spirit, Christ was made "equal with" God the Father. Firstly, how was Christ made "equal with" God? As the image and likeness of God, as it were **2 Cor. 4:4**. Christ is God-like even as Man is Christ-like. **I Cor 3:23**

Colo. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God,: **Vr.19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

Hebr 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **Vr.3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Phil 2:6 Who being in the form of God (likeness of God) thought it not robbery to be equal with God (as the Son of God):

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, (being equal with God) and the Word was God. **Vr.2** The same was in the beginning with God.

Prov 8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him.

Jn 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. **Vr.18** 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. **Vr.19** Then answered Jesus and said unto them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself (equal with but not equal to), but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. **Vr.21** For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will (**I Cor 15:45**). **Vr.22** For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: **Vr.23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father (equal with). He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. **Vr.25** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. **Vr.26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **Vr.27** And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Jn 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? **Vr.33** 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. **Vr.34** Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? **Vr.35** If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; **Vr.36** 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? (not God the Father) **Vr.37** If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. **Vr.38** But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him (equal with). **Vr.30** I and my Father are one. (equal with)

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (equal with)

Mk 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. (equal with but not equal to)

God the Father “is not equal to the Son”, because He is greater than all including the Son. He is above all, all in all. He is the one and only true God. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Father that made the Son who he is.

Jn 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Jn 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Jn 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord (**Mtt 12:18**); neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him (The Father sent the Son- **Jn 6:57**).

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Colo 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Jn 20:17 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 my God, and your God.

Jn 17: 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Jn 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father:

I Cor 11:3 But I would have you know, and the head of Christ is God.

GOD THE FATHER VS MAN

Man is NEVER “equal to” God, but shall be “equal with” God in some respects. How? We are one with the Father through the Son. We are only like God as adopted sons through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Christ is the image of God, while we are the image of Christ.

I Cor. 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: .

Mtt 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: **Vr.48** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

I Pet 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; **Vr.16** Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Jn 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? **Vr.35** if he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came and the scripture cannot be broken;

Jn 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **Vr.22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **Vr.23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;

God the Father is not man nor was He ever flesh. He is our Creator, we are His creatures. He is a Spirit. There is none that is equal unto Him, there is none to be compared or likened unto Him. He is greater than all and above all in all things. God is in all and through all. That is why He is all in all. He is the Creator of all things; beside Him every other being is created.

Jn 4:24 God is a Spirit.

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie;

Isa 55: 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. **Vr.9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ps 86:8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. **Vr.9** All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. **Vr.10** For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Man is "equal with" God being made a living soul, a spiritual entity, but not "equal to" God as a life-giving Spirit. The living soul is the likeness and image of the life-giving Spirit as it were. For there is a difference between the soul and the spirit, the soul can die (as per face eternal damnation-the second death) but the spirit can never die.

I Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

I Cor 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God:

Mtt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

CONCLUSION

The Son of God, Christ is “equal with” God the Father, being made a quickening Spirit by the Father, while as the Son of man, Christ was “equal with man”, being man flesh by the Father. Amongst angels, man, the Son and the Holy Spirit there is none “equal to” the Father, He is above all.

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and in you all.

Christ, the Son came and gave unto us, that truly believe in him, this understanding, but up till today many have not this knowledge unfortunately- **Jn 18:37**. Consider what have been said in this literature and may the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.