

Break the Sabbath- Equal to God?

(Jesus came to Fulfill the Law, Not to Break it)

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A Pharisees Perspective

“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)



Now, did Jesus really break the sabbath and claimed to be equal to God the Father? I ask this because Jesus did say: *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:17-19)

So, Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to destroy or break it. Therefore, since obeying the Sabbath day was part of the Ten Commandments, Jesus wouldn't have broken it. *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* (Hebrews 4:15)

Next, did Jesus really make himself equal with God by calling him Father? Well, Jesus did say for us to pray: *“Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be thy name”* according to Matthew 6:9. So, are we making ourselves equal with God by call him Father as well? Of course not. We can see the same thing happening where the Jews wanted to stone Jesus for saying: *“I and my Father are one.”* (John 10:30). For: *“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) But again, Jesus did say to God his Father: *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 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.”* (John 17:20-21) So, being one with both God the Father and Jesus doesn't make us equal with God.

Therefore, shouldn't this oneness simply mean we are in unity which each other? So, let's not come to the false notion that being one makes us possess the same nature. For as said above, that would make us equal with God as well.

Below are some comments related to the section above:

- When Jesus says to the apostles, “**you in me, and I in you**” (John 14:20), he is using the **same wording that he used when he speaks of being “in” the Father**. In fact, **Jesus prayed in John 17:21 that people will believe so “that they also may be in us” (in the Father and Jesus)**. A study of Jesus’ teaching at the Last Supper shows that he placed a lot of emphasis on **he and the Father being “in” each other**(John 14:10, 11, 20; 17:21-22), and similarly taught about the disciples being “in” him and he “in” them (John 15:4-7). **Thus, just as God and Jesus have an intimate relationship and are in union with one another, so God, Jesus, and believers are to be in an intimate relationship with one another. ... Another word in John that expresses the union and fellowship between God, Jesus, and the believer is the word “one.”** Jesus said that He and the Father were “one” (John 10:30), meaning **one in purpose, unified, in intimate relationship with each other. ... Jesus expanded what he said about He and his Father being “one” at the Last Supper when three times he prayed about the believers being “one” just as God and Christ were one**. He prayed, “that they may be one, just as we are” (John 17:11), and “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, *are* in me and I in you, that they also may be in us” (John 17:21), and “so that they may be one, just as we *are* one; I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one” (John 17:22-23). **It is clear from all the uses of “one” that Jesus and God being “one” does not refer to them being “one God and of the same essence,” but rather one in purpose.** [John 10:38, REV Bible and Commentary \(revisedenglishversion.com\)](http://www.revisedenglishversion.com/John-10-38-REV-Bible-and-Commentary)
- As we have seen, when John wrote that Jesus “*broke the Sabbath*” (John 5:18), **he was describing Jesus' actions from the Pharisees' perspective** (compare 9:14-16). Those who say Jesus did actually break the Sabbath are agreeing with Christ's enemies—His accusers—that Jesus’ miraculous works of healing were a breach of the Sabbath law. They are agreeing with Jesus' accusers that He was a Sabbath-breaker. To be consistent, they must also agree with the Pharisees when they said of Christ: “*We know that this man is a sinner*” (v. 24). The blind man who had been healed knew better than that, saying that “we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him” (v. 31). **When Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He was not violating the law of God**. By His actions, He demonstrated the true application of God’s laws—rather than Pharisaic traditions—that “*it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath*” (Matthew 12:12). The “law” that Jesus violated was a man-made rule that was itself against the principles of God's law. Remember: **Had Jesus Christ actually broken the Sabbath, He would have been sinning. But the Scripture says that He “committed no sin”** (1 Peter 2:22). **Had He sinned, He could not be our Savior**. But He, being undefiled and separate from sinners, offered Himself without spot and without blemish to God for our redemption (Hebrews 7:26; 9:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19). **No, Jesus did not break the Sabbath**. He spent the Sabbath preaching, teaching, healing, honoring God and doing the good work of His ministry—the work of God. (The Bible Sabbath Association, by Rod Reynolds) <https://www.biblesabbath.org/tss/515/sabbath.html#:~:text=No%2C>
- I and the Father are one. ... The ancients misused this passage ... **Christ is not discussing the unity of substance, but the concord he has with the Father**; so that **whatever Christ does will be confirmed by his Father’s power**. (Calvin’s New Testament Commentaries, book 4, St. John, chapter 1-10, page 273, Eerdmans Publishing Company.)
- “**the charge here of Y’shua making himself equal to YHWH is simply Pharisee tradition projecting itself onto Y’shua.**” Then Mr. Roth goes on to say: “The Ruach haKadesh (the

Holy Spirit) in Mashiyach (in Christ) is equal to YHWH (God), **but the Pharisees supposed that Y'shua and his followers equated his humanity with YHWH**, they didn't understand Isaiah 11:1-2, that Mahiyach has the Ruach haKadesh within him The Aramaic English New Testament, "The Peshitta" by Andrew Gabriel Roth

- When He came to earth in that body which was of the seed of David, **did He come with all the fullness of God in His Spirit? The answer is "No"**, because it is written, "... who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:6-8. **We often hear it said, "He was true God and true Man." But this is not true if you mean that He retained all God's fullness when He came to earth in the body that was of the seed of David.** Nor is this statement appropriate in light of what is written in Hebrews 12:2, "... looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." ... Jesus came down to us with the same flesh as the children had. (Hebrews 2:14-16) **He experienced the same temptations that we experience and overcame them while He was a man without sinning a single time!** (Hebrews 4:15) (Active Christianity by: BRUNSTAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

The Father is Greater than I

Now, let's remember what Jesus said to his disciples: *"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."* (John 14:28 So, Jesus clearly admits that the Father is greater than he is. Also, in Hebrews 2:9 we read: *"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. ... Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."* (Hebrews 2:9, 14-15) So, it clearly says that Jesus *"was made a little lower than the angels."*

And finally, let's take heed to what Jesus himself said. For in John 17:3 he declared: *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* (John 17:3) So, even though he was at one point existing in the form God (the Logos), he emptied himself of who he was and became flesh and blood like us. Therefore, in his human state he was rightly declaring that God the Father is the only true God. We can see this also to be true where John the apostle said: *"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."* (1 John 5:20 NIV) Yes, John clearly said that Jesus came to reveal *"him who is true"* which we know is God the Father himself. Also, in Paul's writings and letters to the churches, he begins by saying: *"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 1:3). So, the apostle Paul is making it clear that God is our Father and Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

So, that all being said, wouldn't the claim: *"makest thyself God"* made by the Pharisees be based upon a misunderstanding of who Jesus was? Therefore, we should all agree that Jesus didn't break the Sabbath nor was he of the same nature as God the Father while being in the flesh? For *"he emptied himself"* in order to show us the way to the Father and to take upon himself the sins of the world. For we read: *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he existed in the form of*

God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8 NASB, 1995 version) Yes, brothers and sister in Christ, this is a true act of love indeed.

In Closing

Now that being said, we shouldn't be viewing Jesus as some ordinary prophet that came and went. For Jesus himself said: *"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."* (John 17:1-5 ESV) So again, even though Jesus admitted that the only true God was the Father himself, he still is to be highly exalted above every name as God's word says. *"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:9-11 ESV)

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 ESV) Amen.

Below you will find some scriptures showing that Jesus was a man (not God) like us:

- *And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.**" (Luke 18:18-19 ESV) **Note:** Jesus made sure that only God the Father got the glory for any good that He did through him.*
- *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.** (John 14:28) **Note:** Jesus being completely human, was admitting that the God the Father is greater than he was.*
- *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, **which God did by him** in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: (Acts 2:22) **Note:** Peter clearly showed that it was God himself who was doing the miracles through Jesus.*
- ***But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.** (1 Corinthians 8:6) Paul the apostle is making it clear that there is only one God, which is the Father himself. Therefore, Jesus is not God but our Lord and Savior.*
- ***For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.** (1 Timothy 2:5-6) **Note:** Again, Paul the apostle clearly shows that there is only one true God (which we know is God our Father) and one mediator (between us and God) which is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*
- *Therefore **he had to be made like his brothers in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For **because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are***

being tempted. (Hebrews 2:17-18 ESV) **Note:** Jesus struggled while resisting this world temptations. However, being filled with the Holy Spirit, he was able to make it through them all. Therefore, we who are in Christ can resist the devil as well through the power of Holy Spirit within us.

God bless you as you seek to do His will. Amen

Note: Bible text other than the King James Bible have been abbreviated according to the version that was used. This is for you the reader to be able to read these verses for yourselves. Therefore, I encourage you to: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15)

- ESV = English Standard Version
- NASB = New American Standard Bible, 1995 version
- NIV = New International Version