

Christ's Witness of Himself is Not True

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(Jn. 8:14, 18)*

*Christ's Witness of Himself Is Not True
(Jn. 5:31)*

As with any apparent contradiction in scripture, the context must be examined closely. The two scriptural texts in this study are dealing with different aspects of the same subject. Therefore, they are not in conflict with each other. Instead, they are complimentary.

The Pharisees therefore said to him (Christ), 'You bear witness of yourself; (therefore) your witness is not true (valid).' ¹⁴Jesus answered and said to them, '**Even if** I bear witness of myself, my witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going' (Jn. 8:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).



**IF I BEAR WITNESS OF MYSELF, MY
WITNESS IS NOT TRUE (VALID AS
TESTIMONY ACCORDING TO GOD'S LAW)**

John 5:31; Ed. note in parenthesis

The Pharisees quoted the law regarding two or more witnesses being required to confirm an important matter (Dt. 17:6; 19:15 cf. Mt. 18:16), and Christ did not deny this truth. However, Christ pointed out that even if he were the only witness to the work his Father gave him, his statements would be true as opposed to the false accusations the Pharisees made about him. Their statements proved, "they did not know where he came from or where he was going" (cf.

Jn. 8:44). If they did know where Christ came from, they would not be trying to undermine the work he was doing. This was the main point of Christ's exchange with the Jewish religious leaders. He then confirmed that his witness was not the only one.

And yet if I do judge, my judgment is true; for **I am not alone, but I am with the Father** (through the action of God's Holy Spirit) **who sent me.** ¹⁷It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am one who bears witness of myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness of me (Jn. 8:16-18; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The final scripture, used by some to claim there is a contradiction in scripture, is Christ's confirmation that according to his Father's law a single witness cannot determine the outcome of an important matter.

If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true (valid as testimony according to God's law) (Jn. 5:31; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So there is no contradiction between what Christ said in John 5:31 and 8:13-18. He was stating the same truth, with an emphasis added, that given the choice between the Pharisees' witness and Christ's, his word would be truthful (cf. Jn. 8:44). However, in both sections of scripture Christ pointed out that his was not the only true witness (see study: Christ Received Not the Testimony from Men).

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