

Christ Did Receive Testimony from Man

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Christ Received Not Testimony from Man (Jn. 5:33-34).

Christ Did Receive Testimony from Man (Jn. 15:27).

Jesus Christ did not rely solely on a man's witness or testimony to validate his ministry. Instead, he referred to examples of both the works that he did as well as his Father's confirmation,

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased' (Mt. 3:17; cf. Ps. 2:7; Jn. 12:28; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

But I (Christ) have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given me to finish – the very works that I do – bear witness of me, that the Father has sent me (Jn. 5:36; Ed. note in parenthesis).

By Christ not relying only on a man's opinion or account of his ministry, he obeyed his Father's word regarding where an individual should place his/her trust,

Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord' (Jer. 17:6).

On the other hand, there are scriptures confirming there is nothing wrong with human witnesses, but these are not as reliable as God's testimony,

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and **in favor with God and men** (Lk. 2:52; emphasis added).

Moreover **he** (a prospective church leader) **must have a good testimony among those who are outside** (God's church), lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (1Tim. 3:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy **on the testimony of two or three witnesses** (Heb. 10:28; cf. Dt. 17:6; 19:15; emphasis added).

Although John the Baptizer's confirmation of Christ's ministry was accurate, Christ stated that he did not rely on this as his only witness,

You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Yet I (Christ) do not receive testimony (only) from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵He was the burning and shining lamp (symbol associated with God's law; cf. Prov. 6:23), and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶**But I have a greater witness than John's**; for the works which the Father has given me to finish – **the very works that I do – bear witness of me, that the Father has sent me** (Jn. 5:33-36; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The final text, used by some to claim there is a contradiction in scripture, actually confirms what Christ had been saying throughout his ministry. It was a promise that his disciples would be able to do great works through the power of Almighty God's Spirit just as Christ was able to do, and they would be human witnesses to the works that Christ had performed during his earthly ministry,

But when the helper (comforter; God's Holy Spirit) comes, which I shall send to you from the Father, the spirit of truth which proceeds from the Father, it will testify of me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning (of Christ's ministry) (Jn. 15:26-27; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So using the scriptural references in the title of this study as proof there is a contradiction in God's word is the same as taking an "and /or" position. In other words, Christ is supposed to take one position or the other, but for some reason he cannot claim both. The truth is that he did take into account both positions, but always chose the testimony of his Father and the proof of the works that his Father sent him to do, over any human witness.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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