

We aim to reconcile people unto God through Christ

SERMON TITLE:	BE LIKE CHRIST – DEPENDENCE ON THE FATHER
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Reading: John 5:19-20, John 10:15

Our relationship to Jesus is the equivalent of His to the Father. And so the words recorded in John 5 and 10 are a reflection of how we relate to the Father. In order to get hold of this truth we need to understand that as Jesus learnt His trade from His earthy Father and copied Him and became a carpenter like His earthly father, he also copied his heavenly Father. He learnt His trade as the Messiah from listening. Listening and watching His Heavenly Father. .

The first thing you notice is the entire *dependence*: "The son can do nothing of himself, but he can do only what he sees his Father doing. Then you are struck by the implicit *obedience*, that just seeks to imitate the father: "because whatever the Father does the Son also does." You then notice that The Father in His loving and intimate relationship with his Son he shows Him the secrets of His trade. The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. And in this dependent obedience on his son's part, and the loving teaching on the father's part, you have the pledge of an ever-growing advance to greater works: step by step the son will be led up to all that the father himself can do: **"Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these."**

In this picture we have the reflection of the relationship between God the Father and the Son as a Human being. As a human being we have got to remind ourselves that Jesus is our example in everything we do. In this passage Jesus reveals to us the greatest secret of His life. And he wants us to follow this example. His dependence on the Father for each moment of His life was absolutely and intensely real: **"the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing."** Jesus did not feel humiliated to wait on the Father for His commands: He rather considered it His highest privilege and blessing to be led and guided by the Father as a child. He bound himself to the strictest obedience to say and do only what the Father showed Him: **"whatever the Father does the Son also does."**

The proof of Christ's absolute commitment to obedience is shown in the fact that he was careful to obey all that the scriptures taught about him. In His birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection He was totally committed and passionate to endure anything and everything in order that the Scriptures may be fulfilled.

Before His death Jesus remained in prayer the whole night. He was agonizing through the thoughts of what was waiting for Him. In continued prayer He wrestled with God because He knew the pain and suffering which was waiting for Him but He still prayed: Matt 26:42 "... may your will be done."

No child in his ignorance, no slave in his bondage, was ever so anxious to keep to what the father or master had said, as the Lord Jesus was to follow the teaching and guidance of His Heavenly Father. This entire dependence and willingness always to learn the Fathers will was rewarded with the most perfect communication of all the Father's secrets. **"For the Father loved the Son, and showed Him all things, Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these."** Through this dependence and obedience the Father showed Him the life plan for sinners. He carried Him through because there was a greater purpose. Dependence and obedience brought salvation to many.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16 NKJV

Child of God, it is not only for Jesus that a life plan was arranged, but for each one of His children. As we learn to lean on the Father in dependence on Him and fulfill His life plan for us, more and more His purposes will be worked out in our lives. The nearer the believer comes to this entire dependence on the Father **"doing nothing but what He sees the Father do,"** and then to absolute obedience, **" whatever the Father does the Son also does"** so much more will the promise be fulfilled to us: **"²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.**

LIKE CHRIST! The word calls us to a life of conformity to the Son in His absolute dependence on the Father. Each one of us is invited to live in such way - dependant on our heavenly Father. The nearer we come to God in dependence and obedience the more we will be able to personalize the words " for the Father loves the son and shows him all he does"

Christian you are of more value to God than what you think. You are as much worth as the price He paid for you, that is, the blood of His Son; He therefore attaches the highest value to the least thing that concerns you, and will guide you even in what is an insignificant event in your life. He longs more for a close and consistent relationship with you than what you can understand today. He can use you for His glory, and make something of your life, better than what you now understand or experience.

The Father loves His child, and shows him what He does. What he has demonstrated in Jesus He will also demonstrate in us. We must only surrender to Him in such a way that we become totally dependent on and obedient to Him. God wants us to conform to Christ's image, so that we can be blessed and thus be a blessing. Do not let unbelief of God's compassionate love prevent us from expecting the Father's guidance in all things.

The desire for independence was the temptation in the Garden of Eden and is still the greatest temptation in each human heart. Dependence brings us into a most blessed and wonderful fellowship with God, just as with Jesus the verse will be true of us **"²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does"** Dependence on God takes from us the cares of life, it removes responsibility away from us and places it on God. All we have to do is obey the Father's instructions. It gives us power and strength to do the will of God because we know that He works in us to will and to do His will. It gives us the absolute assurance that if we depend on Him in love and obedience we will success because we have allowed God alone to take charge of it.

My friend if you want to succeed in life, offer yourself in a new way to God today, live in dependence on Him, live in obedience to Him, let His will be done in your life. Offer yourself to God today in such a way that you can say "I do nothing accept what the Father shows me". Follow the example of Jesus in dependence and obedience and experience the love and guidance of God in your life. A life lived like this gives Him the glory which belongs to Him as God. It keeps the soul in peace and rest, for it allows God to care for all. It keeps the mind quiet and prepared to receive and use the Father's teaching. And it is so gloriously rewarded in the deeper experience of fellowship with God, This life will not only experience God but get to know his will and plans for it. Be like Christ in His dependence and obedience.