

John 5:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Analysis

Jesus explains His relationship to the Father: 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.' This isn't inferiority but unity. The Son doesn't act independently because Father and Son always act in harmony. Jesus sees and imitates the Father's actions perfectly. This is not inability but intimate cooperation.

Historical Context

The double 'verily' (amen, amen) introduces solemn truth. Jesus' explanation reveals intra-Trinitarian relationships: the Son observes and replicates the Father's work. This answers the charge that He acts independently of God—quite the opposite, He acts in perfect union with Him.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' inability to act independently demonstrate unity rather than inferiority?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between Father and Son in the Trinity?

Interlinear Text

Ἀπεκρίνατο	οὖν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	ἀμὲν	
answered	Then	G3588	Jesus	also	said	unto them	Verily	
G611	G3767		G2424	G2532	G2036	G846	G281	
ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	οὐ	δύναται	ὁ	υἱὸς	ποιεῖ	ἅφ'
Verily	I say	unto you	G3756	can	G3588	The Son	do	of
G281	G3004	G5213		G1410		G5207	G4160	G575
ἐαυτοῦ	οὐδὲν	ἐὰν	μή	τι	βλέπῃ	τὸν	πατέρα	ποιεῖ ἃ
himself	nothing	G1437	G3361	what	he seeth	G3588	the Father	do G3739
G1438	G3762			G5100	G991		G3962	G4160
γὰρ	ἂν	ἐκεῖνος	ποιεῖ	ταῦτα	καὶ	ὁ	υἱὸς	
for	what things soever	he	do	these	also	G3588	The Son	
G1063	G302	G1565	G4160	G5023	G2532		G5207	
ὁμοίως	ποιεῖ							
likewise	do							
G3668	G4160							

Additional Cross-References

John 12:49 (Parallel theme): For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 8:28 (References Jesus): Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

John 14:10 (Parallel theme): Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

John 10:18 (Parallel theme): No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Romans 8:11 (References Jesus): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

John 9:4 (Parallel theme): I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

John 5:21 (Parallel theme): For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Psalms 138:3 (Parallel theme): In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

Psalms 50:6 (Parallel theme): And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.