

John 7:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

Analysis

But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me. Jesus contrasts their ignorance with His knowledge. 'I know him' (egō oida auton) claims intimate relationship. The reason: 'I am from him' (par' autou eimi)—Jesus's origin is the Father. The phrase 'he hath sent me' (kakeinos me apesteilen) emphasizes divine mission. Reformed theology sees here Jesus's unique relationship to the Father—eternal generation, missional sending, complete unity. Jesus alone perfectly knows and reveals the Father.

Historical Context

This claim to be 'from' the Father and 'sent' by Him asserts divine origin and authority. First-century Jews would understand this as claiming preexistence and divine status. John's prologue established this (1:1-14); now Jesus explicitly claims it. The early church's Christology developed from such statements—Jesus isn't merely human messenger but divine Son.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's claim to be 'from' the Father reveal about His nature?
2. How does being 'sent' relate to the Trinity's internal relationships?
3. Why is Jesus alone able to perfectly reveal the Father?

Interlinear Text

ἐγὼ δὲ οἶδα αὐτοῦ ὅτι παρ' αὐτοῦ εἰμι καὶ κεῖνός με
I But know him for from him I am and he me
G1473 G1161 G1492 G846 G3754 G3844 G846 G1510 G2548 G3165

ἀπέστειλεν

hath sent
G649

Additional Cross-References

John 8:55 (Parallel theme): Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

John 17:18 (Parallel theme): As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 6:46 (Parallel theme): Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

John 1:18 (Parallel theme): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.