

John 8:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Analysis

He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone—Jesus asserts unbroken communion with the Father in the present tense (μετ' ἐμοῦ ἐστίν/met' emou estin). This isn't past fellowship remembered or future hope, but continuous divine presence. The verb aphēken (ἀφῆκεν, 'left') in the aorist negates any moment of abandonment—anticipating the cry 'My God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46), which would be unique in redemptive history, not Christ's normal experience.

I do always those things that please him (τὰ ἀρεστὰ αὐτῷ ποιῶ πάντοτε/ta aresta autō poiō pantote)—The adverb πάντοτε (pantote, 'always') permits no exceptions. Christ's obedience wasn't occasional or partial but perpetual and complete. The word 'please' (ἀρεστὰ/aresta) means more than avoiding displeasure—it's actively delighting the Father, perfect alignment of will. This statement, coming amid hostile opposition (vv.13-27), reveals Christ's inner life: regardless of human rejection, He lives coram Deo, before the Father's face. This is the secret of His perseverance—divine approval mattered infinitely more than human acceptance.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words in the temple treasury (v.20) during the Feast of Tabernacles, a week-long celebration of God's wilderness provision. The temple's Court of Women housed thirteen trumpet-shaped offering receptacles, a public

space where Jesus's teaching would draw large crowds. His claim to perfect obedience in this setting was provocative—the temple existed because Israel had NOT always done what pleased God. Sacrifices, rituals, and priestly mediation testified to human failure. Yet here stands one who needs no sacrifice, claiming flawless obedience.

The Pharisees' earlier challenge (v.13) had questioned Jesus's self-testimony. His response grounds His authority in unbroken fellowship with the Father—something no prophet, priest, or king could claim. Even Moses was barred from Canaan for one act of disobedience (Numbers 20:12). David, 'a man after God's own heart,' committed adultery and murder. Israel's entire history testified that none always pleased God. Christ's claim wasn't mere messianic authority but something greater: perfect covenant faithfulness, the obedience Adam failed to render, the righteousness Israel never achieved.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's unbroken communion with the Father challenge our tendency to compartmentalize 'sacred' and 'secular' moments?
2. What does it mean that Christ lived coram Deo (before God's face) rather than coram hominibus (before human opinion), and how can this reorient our fear of man?
3. Why was Christ's perfect obedience necessary for our salvation, and how does His 'always' cover our 'never'?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὁ	πέμψας	με	μετ'	ἐμοῦ	ἐστίν·	οὐκ	ἀφῆκέν	με
And	he	that sent	me	with	me	is	not	hath	me
G2532	G3588	G3992	G3165	G3326	G1700	G2076	G3756	G863	G3165
μόνον	ὁ	πατήρ,	ὅτι	ἐγὼ	τὰ	ἀρεστὰ	αὐτῷ		
alone	the Father	for	I	those things that please	him				
G3441	G3588	G3962	G3754	G1473	G3588	G701	G846		
ποιῶ	πάντοτε								
do	always								
G4160	G3842								

Additional Cross-References

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 16:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

John 15:10 (Parallel theme): If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 8:16 (Parallel theme): And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

1 John 2:1 (Parallel theme): My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

John 14:31 (Parallel theme): But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

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