

Equal with God

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"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, and of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, **being in the form of God**, considered it not comprehensible to be **Equal With God**; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the **form** of a servant, and **was made in the likeness** of men. And being found in **fashion** as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:1-8)

Word interpretations:

Equal: from the greek word *isa* (*isos*) which means: equal, equality, equally, equivalent, identical, having the same level or value; equal in substance or quality. In various contexts used either inclusively or in a more limited sense.

With: does not exist in original text. Thus literally: God equal, or God equality. But properly, in english: Equal with God or Equality with God.

God: from the greek word *Theo* which means: God; the Supreme Being who created all things, and owns all things, and sustains all things.

Verse 6: literally word for word from the original Greek: "... **who existed in form God, not a-seizable-thing considered to-be equally God**"

A more proper translation: "...**who existed in (the) form (of) God, considered not God equality to-be a-seizable-thing**."

A more proper translation: "...**who existed in (the) form (of) God, considered not God equality to-be a thing-to-be-grasped**."

Additional Word interpretations:

Robbery: ("...thought it not robbery to be...") from the greek word *harpagmon* - a noun which means literally: a-thing-seized or grasped (or comprehended fully), or something to be seized or grasped; (KJV: the act of seizing or stealing something – i.e. robbery). The context is that of **NOT being a-seizable-thing!** The thing being God equality!

Form: ("...being in the form of God...") from the greek word *morph* which means: form, shape, outward appearance. Properly: form (outward expression) that embodies essential (inner) substance so that the form is in complete harmony with the inner essence. (i.e. Jesus is God inside and outside: God incarnate!)

Likeness: ("...and was made in the likeness of men...") from the greek word *homoi mati* which means: that which is made in the likeness (of something); (originally: a thing made like something else), a likeness, or rather: a form; derived from *homos*, "the same" – properly, the same as; the same likeness.

Fashion: (And being found in fashion as a man...) from the greek word *sch mati* which means: fashion, appearance, form; "outward, visible form" is used of Jesus' earthly body. In Context: refers to Christ Jesus being incarnated into a genuine physical body, (conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary!); and was thus not an "exact match with typical humanity" because His body was never touched or tainted by sin (even original sin).

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Jesus is Equal with God: Jesus is equal with the Father in Holiness; He is equal in Love; He is equal in Perfection; and He is equally Merciful. And He is equally God! In context of God's Word Jesus was God in the beginning, even before creation, as it says:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Same was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2)

God, who chose to become incarnate in the person of Jesus the Son of God, “*made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the **form** of a servant, and was made in the **likeness** of men. And being found in **fashion** as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” Just as the first man Adam was initially created sinless by God; so also Christ Jesus was conceived and made a sinless man in the likeness of Adam (but altogether untouched by Adam's sin nature) – with a genuine physical human body! As it says:

“And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us! And we beheld **His Glory, the Glory as of the Only Begotten (Son) of the Father**, full of Grace and Truth.”
(John 1:14)

The sinlessness of Jesus is an important concept to grasp and comprehend in regards to His equality with God. Just as the Father has been by nature eternally sinless, so also the Only Begotten Son of the Father, in human form, remained sinless so as to maintain His equality with God. Only by being thus Equal with God, could Jesus be the perfect unblemished Lamb of God, who was offered as the perfect unblemished sacrifice for forgiveness of our sin.

Apart from the man Jesus, who always maintained His equality with the Father, there **has never** been a single human being who has been able to **seize or grasp a state of perfection** equal to the Perfection of God Himself. However, in order to gain everlasting Life we must become Holy as God is Holy! Also we must be perfect as God is Perfect! **It is as it says:**

“But as He who has called you **is Holy**, so be you also holy in all manner of behavior; because it is written, '**Be you Holy; for I am Holy.**' “ (1Peter 1:15-16) (see also Leviticus 11:44)

And again: “Therefore, **be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is Perfect.**”
(Matthew 5:48)

Thus our need for a Savior who is Equal with our Father in Heaven! Jesus is that Savior – even our Savior, and our Lord! As it says:

“Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him (Jesus), and given Him a Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the Gory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

Since it is impossible for us, by our own efforts, to grasp, or attain a state of holiness and perfection equal to the Father's; and since it is necessary for us to do so in order to achieve everlasting life; we, therefore, need a Deliverer to achieve, for us holiness and perfection that is equal to the Father's! The Father, through Jesus is that Deliverer! Consider the following:

“For the law made no one perfect, but the bringing in of a **Better Hope** did; by which we draw near unto God.” (Hebrews 7:19) Jesus is the Father's Better Hope who makes us perfect!

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And again:

“For it pleased **the Father** that in Him (in Jesus) should all the fulness (equality) dwell. And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, through Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; through Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, who were formerly alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works; yet now, He has reconciled you In the body of His flesh through death, to present you **holy and blameless** and unproveable in His sight.” (Colossians 1:19-22)

“Blessed be the **God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ; just as He has chosen us in Him (in Christ Jesus) before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame** before Him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the Glory of His Grace, in which He has **made us accepted in the Beloved**; in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His Grace.” (Ephesians 1:3-7)

“For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion **the Deliverer**, and (He) shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My Covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” (Romans 11:25-27)

“But the God of all Grace, who has called us unto His eternal glory through Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **will perfect**, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be Glory and Dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1Peter 5:10-11)

Only through Christ Jesus, and His “obedience unto death, even the death of the cross,” does our holiness become equal to the Father's! Only through Jesus do we obtain everlasting Life! This is truly Wonderful and Amazing Grace! Meditate on these marvelous Mercies, and embrace His eternal Grace, and Truth, in which we now abide in – even in Christ Jesus!

Jesus is Equal with God

**Jesus is Equal to His Father in all holiness & perfection!
He is Equal to the Father in nature, love, and mercy!
He always has been and He always will be!**

**We are made perfectly holy and righteous in and through Christ Jesus!
God did this by humbling Himself; and by making Himself of no reputation!
He was made in the likeness of men; and was found in fashion as a man!
And He became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross!
Thus has the Father and Son so Loved the world – even us!**

**Lord God, all praise to the Glory of Your wonderful Grace!!
Thank You for Your promise to perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish us ...
... in Your perfect and eternal holiness – through Christ Jesus our Lord!**

To You be the Glory and Dominion forever and ever. Amen