

The Whole Counsel



“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts 20:27

The Son of God

(Article 2, The Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church)

We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.

The Authority of the Son **John 5:19-23**

19 Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. **20** The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. **21** Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. **22** The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, **23** so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ **The Son is always working in concert and harmony with the Father.**
- ◆ **The Father has shown everything to the Son.**
- ◆ **The Son has the power to grant eternal life.**
- ◆ **It is not the Father but the Son who will judge all humanity.**
- ◆ **The Son is due the same honor as the Father.**

Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

The following daily readings are available online.

Jesus is “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
([John 1:29-34](#))

Jesus is our champion who overcame the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. Where Adam and Eve failed, Jesus has triumphed.
([Matthew 4:1-11](#))

Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed king, whom God sent into the world to establish the kingdom of God.
([Luke 4:14-30](#))

Jesus is the Son of God to whom the Father has entrusted the authority to rule over all humanity and to offer eternal life.
([John 5:19-29](#))

Jesus our Savior who endured the cross so that we might find the forgiveness of our sin.
([Philippians 2:5-11](#))

Jesus is our friend, because everything he learned from the Father he has shared with us.
([John 15:9-17](#))

Jesus is our judge, and at his return he will render judgement over every human being.
([Matthew 25:31-46](#))

APPLICATION *for Daily Living*

Loyalty

Love is the affection of our heart, but loyalty is how that love is expressed in our daily living. God deeply values our loyalty above all other gifts. The salvation that is given to us in Jesus Christ enables us to subsequently express our loyalty to God. As we live in continuing loyalty to God, our focus shifts away from our personal needs, which we trust that God will meet, to the deeper relational treasure of living for God.

QUESTIONS *for discussion*

As you were growing up, who was the person to whom you were most loyal?

Why do you think God values our loyalty?

What is one thing you might do to express your loyalty to God?