

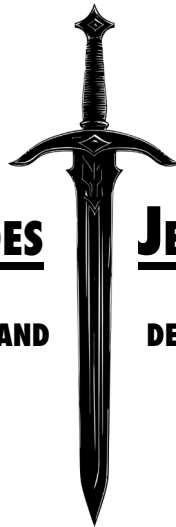
THE SABBATH CONTENTIONS

Jesus Draws a Line in the Sand



DOCTRINE DIVIDES

IT'S THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND



JESUS AGREES

DEATH ... HEAVEN AND HELL ...

I — JESUS DRAWS A LINE IN THE SAND ...

1. Jesus provokes the Jews by choosing to heal this man on the Sabbath, 5:1-9.

- (John 5:1–9 ESV) After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. **Now that day was the Sabbath.**

2. Jesus knew the Jews would intensify their persecutions because he healed the man on the Sabbath, 5:10-16.

- (John 5:10–16 ESV) So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “**It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.**” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 **Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”** 15 **The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.** 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, **because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.**

A. Jesus had drawn a line in the sand by healing on the Sabbath.

B. The Jews responded as Jesus knew they would and challenged his faithfulness to the law.

C. Jesus found the man in the temple knowing that the man would report him to the Jews.

3. Jesus further provokes the Jews by making himself equal with God, 5:17-18.

- (John 5:17–18 ESV) But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.” 18 **This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**

A. In choosing to heal the man on the Sabbath Jesus picked a fight to provoke the Jews to reveal their murderous intentions.

B. Healing on the Sabbath escalated the tension per the Lord's plan in moving toward his death on the cross.

C. His plan worked as the Jews now desire more than ever to find a way to kill him.

II — JESUS STATES HIS PURPOSE IS TO DIVIDE ...

1. Jesus states his purpose in coming was to divide—exposing the difference between truth and lies, finding life and losing life, Matthew 10:34-39, Luke 12:51–53.

- (Matthew 10:34–39 ESV) **Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** 35 For I have come to **set a man against** his father, and a daughter **against** her mother, and a daughter-in-law **against** her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 **Whoever loves** father or mother **more than me** is not worthy of me, and **whoever loves** son or daughter **more than me** is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 **Whoever finds** his life **will lose** it, and **whoever loses** his life for my sake **will find** it.

To set against ... to divide; to cut into two parts, cleave asunder, sever; to make a division or separation, whether physically or abstractly.

A. The person you love more will have your allegiance.

B. The person you love the most will determine where you will spend eternity.

C. Jesus knows that it is necessary to break any bond—family or otherwise—that would keep the person from following him.

- (Luke 12:51–53 ESV) **Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.** 52 For from now on in one house there will be five **divided**, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be **divided**, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

D. We must learn from our Lord and Master that it is necessary to divide so that people can discern truth from the lie.

- (John 9:16 ESV) Some of the Pharisees said, **“This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”** But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.
- (John 10:18–21 ESV) No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” 19 **There was again a division among the Jews because of these words.** 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

E. Truth separates us from what is false and dedicates us to what is true.

- (John 17:17 ESV) **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**
- (John 8:31–32 ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples, 32 **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

F. The truth is what sets of free from the lies we believe.

G. So, yes, Jesus would wholeheartedly agree—doctrine divides — the truth from the lie.

2. A review of the stated purpose of the Gospel of John in view of Jesus’ stated purpose helps us interpret and understand Jesus’ actions.

A. It is important that we make the connection between the stated purpose of the Gospel of John and Jesus’ stated purpose of coming to divide.

B. It is important to follow Jesus’ example if we truly believe God and are concerned about the eternal wellbeing of the people with whom we are trying to reach with the truth of God’s word.

3. The tone of the Gospel of John is necessarily becoming more combative as Jesus begins to aggressively challenge the Jews and reveal his identity as the Son of God.

- (John 20:30–31 ESV) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 **but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

III — JESUS UNSHEATHS HIS SWORD TO DIVIDE AND TO CLARIFY ...

1. Jesus unsheathes his sword of division to reveal very specific truth regarding his identity so that people may believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in his name, 5:19-29.

- (John 5:19–29 ESV) So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has

granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

2. Jesus gives a very clear and detailed list affirming that he is indeed the Son of God.

- A. He affirms that he has such unity with the Father that he does nothing on his own, 5:19.
- B. He affirms that he does whatever the Father does, 5:19.
- C. He affirms that the Father shows him all that he is doing, 5:20.
- D. He affirms that the Son gives life just like the Father does, 5:21.
- E. He affirms that the Father gives judgment to the Son so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father, 5:22-23.
- F. He asserts that whoever hears his word and believes the one who sent him has eternal life, 5:24.
- G. He asserts that a time is coming when the Son speaks and those who hear will live, 5:25.
- H. He asserts that he has life in himself as the Father has life in himself, 5:26.
- I. He affirms that the Father has given him authority to execute judgment, 5:27.

3. He finishes his statements by telling them to not marvel (be amazed) at this because a time is coming when all the dead will hear his voice and rise to judgment, 5:28-29.

CONCLUSION: JUDGMENT IS COMING. ...

People need to be separated from any and every family, social, religious and personal connection that would keep them from the truth of salvation and a life lived to the glory of God.

We love these people by holding fast to the word of God and being unyielding in the truth of the gospel.

True love communicates truth no matter the personal loss to ourselves.

Truth will be corrupted every time by the people who receive and/or seek glory from one another.

- (John 5:44 ESV) **How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another** and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
- (1 Thessalonians 2:3-6a ESV) For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, 4 **but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.** 5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. 6 **Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others.**

The arrogant and the cowardly do not share the saving truth of God's word because receiving glory and love from the people around them is more important to them than loving Christ and bringing glory to God.

