

**John 5:18** says, *“For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill [Jesus because he] ...was calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.”* And at **John 10:30, 38** Jesus said, *“I and the Father are one”* and *“the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”* This shows that he is with the Father in a triune God.

Response: Notice that Jesus was calling God *“his own Father;”* he was not claiming to be God. Paul helps us to get the proper sense of John 5:18 at Galatians 4:1 where he wrote, *“the heir ...is owner of all the estate.”* By claiming to be God’s Son, the Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be God’s heir, and therefore, making a claim to His authority. But they did not construe this to mean that he was literally God.

As for Jesus’ being in the Father and the Father’s being in him and Their being one, consider Jesus’ prayer at John 17:20, 21, *“I do not pray for these only but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one: even as You, Father, are in me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us.”* So if John 10:38 means that the Son is one person in a multiple Godhead, then John 17:20, 21 means that believers are also persons in that Godhead. Being *one* means being in harmony, united in thought and purpose.<sup>7</sup> -- Romans 15:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 1:10

But notice who Jesus did claim to be in the context of these verses. John 10:30-36 records: [Jesus said,] *“‘I and the Father are one.’ The Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?’ The Jews answered him, ‘It is not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy because you, being a man, make yourself God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘...do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, “You are blaspheming,” because I said, “I am the Son of God”?’”* This would have been the perfect opportunity to declare himself to be God the Son, if he truly were. Did he? No, he claimed to be the *Son of God!*

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<sup>7</sup> Trinitarians like to apply this definition of the word *one* to every verse that says God is one so that these verses do not contradict their belief in a triune God. There are verses where *one* does refer to *unity* and *harmony*, just as we have demonstrated, but oftentimes the word *one* simply means one. [Prop # 6]