

John 5.18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Two facts must be taken into account. (1) It is the unbelieving Jews who misunderstand Jesus and think he is claiming to be equal with God. Did Jesus think he was equal with God? John 10.29 and 14.28 both indicate that he believed his Father was greater than him. The misunderstanding of Jesus by the hard-hearted religious leaders is a theme which runs throughout the Gospel of John. We dare not align ourselves on the side of Jesus' critics. (2) The very next verse answers how Jesus related to the Father. He starts by saying, "the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing" (John 5.19). By calling God his Father he was not claiming equality with God. When you call God your Father does that mean you think you are equal with him? Of course not!