

John 14:28

A fourth passage is John 14:28: "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, this passage teaches that Jesus is not God because Jesus said "my Father is greater than I." But this statement simply affirms that the Father is positionally greater than Jesus. Let me illustrate: President Reagan and I both have a human nature and, therefore, we are equal in nature. Yet, although we are equal in nature, President Reagan is greater than I am because he is President of the United States of America and I am not. President Reagan then is positionally greater than I am, but he is not greater than I am in nature. The same is true with Jesus and his Father. They are both God and, therefore, they are equal in nature. Yet although Jesus and his Father are equal in nature, his Father is positionally greater than he is as the God-man. This interpretation fits with the context where Jesus reminds his disciples of the news that he had previously given to them that he was going to leave them and go to his Father; but he would come to them again! He tells them that if they loved him with an unselfish love as they ought, they would rejoice over this news instead of grieving over it as they were doing. He then explains the reason why: his Father is positionally greater than he is as the God-man, and therefore, when he goes to him, his Father will exalt him as the God-man to his own right hand, i.e., to a position of honor and authority in heaven. This passage then does not contradict the doctrine that Jesus is God.

I Corinthians 15:28

The fifth passage is 1 Cor 15:28 which says: "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." Jehovah's Witnesses say this passage teaches that Jesus is not God because the Apostle Paul says that the Son will be "subject" to God the Father. The Apostle Paul says that the Son will be subject to God the Father, not because the Son is not God, but because God the Father is positionally greater than the Son as the God-man. It is like a king who has a son. Both have a human nature, and therefore they are equal in nature. Yet, the son is subject to the king, not because the son is inferior in nature to him, for they both have the same nature, but because the king is positionally greater than the son. The same is true with God, the Father and the Son. They are both God, and therefore, they are equal in nature. Yet, the Son will be subject to God, the Father, not because he is inferior in nature to him, for they both have the same nature, but because God the Father is positionally greater than the Son.

The Context supports this interpretation. The Apostle Paul says that when God the Father brings all things into subjection to the Son, the Son will turn the administration of his kingdom over to him, and when that