

Skeptics and critics have alleged that Jesus' words in the gospel of John contradict about whether or not Jesus witnessed for himself. Did Jesus witness for himself?



ALLEGED CONTRADICTION:

“According to the Gospel of John, what did Jesus say about bearing his own witness?”

(a) “If I bear witness to myself, my testimony is not true” (John 5:31)

(b) “Even if I do bear witness to myself, my testimony is true” (John 8:14)”

Did Jesus witness For himself?

What Jesus was referring to in [John 5:31](#)? Was he saying that if he witnessed for himself his testimony wasn't true?

WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY SAYS

At [John 8:13](#), **“the Pharisees said to him, you testify on your own behalf, so your testimony cannot be verified” (NAB)**. The Pharisees were referring to the Mosaic Law principle. But, in reality, they thought he was either a liar or a lunatic.

“If I were to testify in my own behalf, my testimony cannot be verified” (John 5:31 NAB). *“Here, Jesus is not suggesting that His testimony is false, but rather that according to Jewish legal standards, a self-testimony alone would not be accepted as valid. This statement sets the stage for Jesus to introduce other witnesses to His identity and mission, such as John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures. This aligns with the broader biblical narrative where God often provides multiple confirmations of His truth, as seen in the*

prophetic tradition and the fulfillment of prophecy in Christ.”--Bible Hub Study Bible

“One witness alone shall not stand against someone in regard to any crime or offense that may have been committed; a charge may stand only on the testimony of two or three witnesses” (Deuteronomy 19:15 NAB). This is the Mosaic Law principle that Jesus and the Pharisees were referring to at [John 5:31](#).

Jesus offered the Pharisees a third alternative – he was telling the truth! **“Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going” (John 8:14 NAB).** Jesus qualified his response by, *“If I do testify on my own behalf”*.

Jesus, in John chapter 8, responded even further that his confirming **“other witness”** was his **“Father,”** saying that they, together, were **“two witnesses” (John 8:16-18 NIV).**

Jesus, in John chapter 5, then introduces other witnesses in his behalf: (1) John the Baptist ([John 5:32-35](#)); (2) Jesus’ **“works” (John 5:36)**; (3) **“the Father” (John 5:37,38)**; (4) **“the scriptures” (John 5:39).**

Did Jesus witness for himself?

Yes, he did, because he told the **“truth” (John 8:40)**, but he also had more than sufficient confirming testimony from other powerful witnesses.

We have seen from examining the scriptures in depth, and in context, that [John 5:31](#) and [John 8:14](#) do not contradict.