

“Jesus: the Word of God”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Subject Question: What does John’s description of Jesus teach us concerning the deity of Christ?

Compliment answer: Jesus is God, Jesus is the God of Creation, and Jesus is the God of Communication.

Big Idea: John’s description of Jesus concerning the Deity of Christ teaches us that Jesus is God, Jesus is the God of Creation, and Jesus is the God of Communication.

Homiletical Idea: “God is speaking”

Purpose: I want the congregation to consider the fact that Jesus is Greater than we can ever imagine, and yet, greater in grace than we can ever comprehend.

Introduction: This is the first in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. We start by considering the Apostle John’s claim that Jesus is indeed God. More, that Jesus is the God of creation. And further, Jesus is the God of communication. If we are to be folks that abide in Christ, we first must know “who” we are called to abiding in. And then, “how” we are given to make abiding possible.

(We can and we should abide in Christ)

- A. Jesus is God. (vs. 1) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Who then is this... ”Word?” Why call Him the Word?

- B. Matthew Henry explains: The plainest reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal his Father's mind to the world. What the evangelist says of Christ proves that he is God. He asserts, His existence in the beginning; His coexistence with the Father. The Word was with God. All things were made by him, and not as an instrument. Without him was not anything made that was made, from the highest angel to the meanest worm? This shows how well qualified he was for the work of our redemption and salvation.
- C. That to me is a good theological argument. But in a pragmatic sense, how do we really know that Jesus is God? How do you know? Is it simply blind faith? Is it more... just what we have been raised to believe? For those of us who know or better yet know that we are known by Christ, there is really no argument as to whether Jesus is God. He is. To those who do not know or better yet, are not known by Christ, there is no argument that can convince you that Jesus is God. It's that simple.
- D. Here is the Christian proof: the experience of conversion and the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John's Gospel. *"You must be born again."* He was simply stating, that He does not dwell in theory, but reality. He basically is saying, "don't just settle for knowing about me, or guessing about the fact that I am God—come, I will prove myself to you." When Paul wrote in Ephesians, ¹³ *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,* ¹⁴ *who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.* He basically, the proof is in the pudding. If you have the Holy Spirit, Jesus must be who he said that He is, and if Jesus is the Son of God, indeed God Himself, then there must be a something to the words that he told us concerning His Heavenly Father! Is the One whom we are called to abide in God? Yes, and His Name is Jesus.

(We can and we should abide in Christ)

- A. Jesus is the God of Creation (vs.2-3) ² *He was with God in the beginning.* ³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* It's hard for us to imagine the babe of Bethlehem being present at the dawn of creation. It's even harder for us to comprehend how our very human Crucified Saviour is also the Eternal Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent designer of all that exists.

- B. Theologically, scholars tell us that Christ was fully human and at the same time fully God: the God-Man. To tell you the truth, I don't know. But I do know that if indeed Christ came to share the Father's mind about us and creation and life, then how can we not be overwhelmed and humbled by such an action for us. The Word came become one of family of humanity... so that we could become one of family of God?
- C. What gets me is not is much what he did, as to why He would even bother. How about you today? Do you know that he "bothered" over you... died for you... was raised to life for you... is preparing a place for you... is waiting for you?
- D. If Jesus is the God of creation, and without digressing into the why's of evil, human will, and the existence of Satan and so on---, then certainly He has to ability to not only create but to sustain. In others words our lives can be viewed in light of a destiny. We each have a destiny to fulfill. We each have a heavenly purpose to pursue. We each have a special place not only in the mind of God but the heart of God.

(We can and we should abide in Christ)

- A. Jesus is the God of Communication. (vs. 4-5) *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* And perhaps this is the most amazing aspect of Christ being the Word. For He is the Word to us and He is the Word for us. He is the Word that makes possible our Words to not just be heard by God—not just to hit God's ear, but to move God's heart. Jesus stated an incredibly overlooked but tremendously insightful lesson for us in Luke's Gospel: *²⁷ "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.*
- B. For with Christ came an invitation to reestablish the communication that was lost in the Garden of Eden—the broken fellowship is now restored. We can walk in the Light of His presence because we have been cleansed, have been changed, and our converted hearts no longer wish to live doing the deeds of darkness, but now we strive, we long, we

desire to act in Light, with our lives and deeds exposed as our hearts now long to live not living lives filled with deeds of darkness, but doing and being children of light—desiring holiness, thirsty for righteousness.

- C. And in many respects when we open up this Word (Bible) God once again meets us in the cool of the day as he did with Adam and Eve. When we pray God once again bends his ear to listen as he did with Abraham, and we like Abraham are called friends of God.
- D. Because of Jesus, the Word of God, we now can respond to the God who has been whispering to us all of our lives, I love you and want you to walk with me, with our own Words, the words that God cherishes and has desired from eternity past, our words that simply state, God, I really, really love you. Maybe just the ability to tell each other of our love for one another was the entire reason why Jesus became the Word...

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