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“The Identity and Deity of Jesus”

[John 1:1-17](#)

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There are many opinions in the world today about who Jesus is. Some say he is just a prophet; some say he is a created being; some don't believe in him at all. But exactly who is Jesus? The apostle John goes into great detail in John 1 about the true identity and deity of Jesus. Pastor Gary points out five things that John explains about the identity of Jesus. It is essential to have a proper understanding of Jesus in order to understand salvation that came through Him!

1. [John 1:1-17](#) - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.”’ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*

2. The Gospel of John

- a. The last of the gospels to be written; written by the Apostle John (ca. 85-90 AD)
- b. John in Hebrew is “Yochanan,” meaning “God is Gracious”
- c. John was the oldest and the last surviving eyewitness of Jesus among the apostles
- d. John only mentions eight miracles of Jesus, but six of the eight are unique to John’s gospel
- e. Emphasis of the book of John is on the deity of Jesus Christ
- f. Purpose of the book of John is **John 20:31**: *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*

3. Jesus is Eternal

- a. **John 1:1a** – *“In the beginning was the Word. . .”*
- b. John linked Jesus with **Genesis 1:1a** – *“In the beginning. . .”*
 - i. Jesus pre-existed before coming to earth

4. Jesus is the Word of God

- a. Word is translated “logos” in the Greek. Logos can mean “word, speech, thought or principle”
- b. In Greek philosophy, it also meant “divine reason,” and that everything that exists, preexisted
- c. When John said Jesus was “the Word,” he was saying that Jesus preexisted and was the manifestation of God himself
- d. **Romans 10:17** – *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
- e. **Revelation 19:13** – *“His name is called The Word of God.”*
- f. Both Jesus and the Bible are referred to as the “Word of God”
 - i. The Bible is the revelation of God transcribed, and Jesus is the revelation of God personified

5. Jesus is God

- a. **John 1:1b** – *“...the Word was God.”*
 - i. **John 10:30** – *“I and My Father are one.”*
 - ii. **John 14:9b** – *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father...”*
 - iii. **Hebrews 1:3a** – *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...”* (1984 NIV)
- b. The Trinity – the union of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – can be difficult for us to understand
 - i. Illustration of light

1. **John 1:4** – *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*
 2. **John 8:12** – *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*
 3. A beam of light refracted through a prism will display itself in three primary colors
 - a. God is a singular God, revealed in three persons or personalities
6. Jesus is Creator
- a. **John 1:3** – *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*
 - i. The part of the Trinity responsible for creation was Jesus
 - b. **Colossians 1:15-17** – *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”* (1984 NIV)
 - i. Jesus holds everything together
7. Jesus became human to dwell among us and die for us
- a. **John 1:14** – *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
 - i. Flesh in the Greek is “skénoú.” It means “to tabernacle or to pitch a tent”
 - ii. The tent is analogous to the tabernacle that was the ancient Israelites place of worship until the temple was built
 - b. Jesus came to dwell among us and to die for us because all have sinned, and God wanted to redeem us
 - c. Jesus died so we might live
 - d. **John 20:31** – *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 1:1-17** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What is the purpose of the Book of John? (See #2f above)
3. Compare **John 1:1a** and **Genesis 1:1a**. What is the significance of the similarities between these two verses? (See #3a and #3b above)

4. What did John mean when he referred to Jesus as the “Word”? (See #4c above)
5. Both Jesus and the Bible are referred to as the “Word of God.” What is the difference between the two? What implications does this have for us when we study God’s Word? (See #4f-i above)
6. Explain how we know from Scripture that Jesus is God. (See #5a above)
7. Have you ever struggled to understand the Trinity? Discuss the analogy of light refracted through a prism in relation to the Trinity. (See #5b-i-3 above)
8. Which part of the Trinity was responsible for creation? (See #6a above)
9. Why did Jesus come to dwell among mankind? How should this affect our thoughts, attitudes, and actions? (See #7b and #7c above)
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)