

John 1:1

“The True Jesus”

1. Last week we began a doctrinal and Theological series that will cover 3 topics over 3 weeks.
 - I am doing this because I'm seeing false teaching coming into the church that not only is confusing people, but it is sending some in the wrong direction. It has to be corrected.
2. Our first topic last week was “The True Scriptures.”
 - Today we will look at our 2nd topic and that is “The True Jesus.”
3. Now it probably sounds funny for you to hear a title called “The True Jesus.”
 - But whether you realize it or not, there are many different Jesus' are out there.
 - The Mormons have a Jesus who is Satan's brother; the Jehovah's Witness have a Jesus who is Michael the Archangel; Islam has a Jesus who is only a prophet; the New Age has a Jesus that is one of many gods, and even the average person on the street has a Jesus that they have created in their mind.
4. The question is: how many Jesuses are there?

- And the answer is: there is only ONE real Jesus?
5. So how do we identify the ONE true Jesus?
- As we saw last week, Jesus said in Luke 24:44 we would find Him, the true Jesus, in the Law, the prophets, and the Psalms.
 - Or what today we call the Old Testament.
6. This is not to say we can't find Him in the New Testament.
- But it had not yet been written when He said this.
7. And I do want to clarify again that when Jesus and others in His day used this terminology, they were speaking in "groups" of sections and books.
- That is the Law of Moses grouped the first 5 books from Genesis to Deuteronomy, the prophets grouped the prophetic books and all the history books together, and the Psalms represented all the poetic books.
 - The bottom line is the ENTIRE Old Testament was included in these three groupings.
8. Jesus said if you want to know the "real" Me and not simply all the "created" Jesuses that each group or person has...
- You will find Me from "Genesis to Malachi."

9. But we know it didn't stop there.

- As we also saw last week Jesus validated the “New Testament” when He promised His disciples that He would supernaturally bring all things to their remembrance that He had taught them.
- And they, or those being dictated to by them, wrote it all down.

10. The first thing we must establish is there is only ONE God.

- Of course, the mystery of the Trinity is at play.

11. But God clearly declares HE alone is God and there is NO other.

- To show this point, I want to look at several verses out of Isaiah.

12. And take note that these quotes are quotes for Yahweh or Jehovah.

- Isaiah 43:10-11 – “You *are* My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. ¹¹I, *even* I, *am* the LORD, And besides Me *there is* no savior.”
- Isaiah 43:13 – “Indeed before the day *was*, I *am* He; And *there is* no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?”

- Isaiah 44:6 – “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘*I am* the First and *I am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.”
- Isaiah 44:8 – “Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one*.’ ”
- Isaiah 45:5-6 – “*I am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That *there is* none besides Me. *I am* the LORD, and *there is* no other;”
- Isaiah 45:12 – “I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.”
- Isaiah 45:21-23 – “Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient times? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me. ²²“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For *I am* God, and *there is* no other. ²³I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me

every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.”

13. Very clearly God is driving the point home that there is only ONE God, and it is HIM.

- Not multiple gods or any “gods of lesser power.”

14. With that foundation and intro, let’s now turn to John 1:1 concerning Jesus and Who He truly is.

v.2 1. Notice first it says, “In the beginning was the Word.”

- It is important to note that the word “beginning” is not used the way we use it in our vocabulary today.
- It does not designate a starting point in time but speaks of “perpetuity” or “something that has always been.”

2. Why is that the obvious and clear meaning here?

- The Bible clearly teaches that with God there is no time or starting point because He is eternal and has simply always existed.

3. This word in the original language simply means that the Word has always existed with no beginning and no end.

- That is the “Word” was and is eternal.

4. Notice secondly it says, “and the Word was WITH God.”

- Again, the language reveals more than simply that the Word was with God but that the Word had an intimate relationship with God.
- They were with each other and one and the same.

5. It gives a picture of this intimate relationship going on throughout eternity between the Father and the Word.

- And if that’s the case, what then or Who IS this “Word?”

6. To get the understanding, we need to look at verse 14. It says, “and the Word became flesh.”

- This is speaking of when God took on human form in the image of Jesus Christ.

7. And what makes this verse so powerful is that it is grammatically required to follow what is called the Granville Sharp’s rule.

- That is Granville Sharp's rule states that “when you have two nouns, which are not proper names (such as Cephas or Paul), which are describing a person, and the two nouns are connected by the word 'and,' and the first noun has the article ('the') while the second does not, both nouns are referring to the same person.”

8. This may sound a little confusing if you are not an English student, but the bottom line is the language demands this to mean if Jesus is the Word and was with God, Jesus also has to BE the SAME God mentioned.
 - Meaning Jesus is not only eternal and not only “a” god, He is God of very God or God Almighty.
9. And why is this so important to understand Doctrinally and Theologically?
 - Because even as there were false teachers in Jesus’ day teaching that Jesus was a “lesser” God than the Father, so to there are false teachers now teaching the same thing.
 - Which this verse clearly refutes.
10. Before we are done today, you will see that Jesus is equal in ALL ways to the Father.
 - Indeed, we will see that the Scriptures declare (in the mystery of the trinity) that He is called the Father as well.
11. When Moses asked God what His Name was in the burning bush incident, who is identified as Yahweh or Jehovah in Exodus 3:13-14 it says,

“¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ And

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." (*I will be who I will be*), And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- And from that point on, the children of Israel came to know the Name of God eternally as "I am," and only HE was referred to that way.

12. Now you know why they wanted to kill Jesus in John 8:52-59 where it says, "Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.'⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.⁵⁵ Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

- They considered this blasphemy because they knew Jesus just declared Himself to be the voice from the burning bush which they knew was Yahweh and God Almighty.

13. Which brings us to our next major doctrinal understanding that we need to have concerning Jesus and that is He was not just a good man, or a prophet, or even a great spiritual leader.

- He was and is God of very God just like the Father and equal in every way in the mystery of the Trinity.
- AND is in no way lesser than the very Father Himself.

14. Philippians 2:5-6 says, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God...”

- Meaning He didn’t consider it wrong to call Himself equal with the Father.

15. Jesus said to Philip in John 14:7-9,

- “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has SEEN the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

16. To further illustrate this, it says of Jesus in Colossians 1:15-16 says, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

- And since we established in Isaiah that there is only One God and here it declares that Jesus IS the Creator....
- That makes Him one and the same with Yahweh.

17. Now one portion of this verse is where a lot of people stumble because since it says that Jesus was the “firstborn.”

- And it says elsewhere He is also the only “begotten” of the Father they think He is not only somehow less than the Father, but that He also had a beginning.
- After all, how could Jesus be the “firstborn” and “begotten” and have always existed?

18. What does it mean here that Jesus was the “firstborn” over all creation.

- The answer is found in the fact that the Jews had “two” different meanings for the word “firstborn.”

19. One was literally the firstborn child, and the other meant the child with the rights of authority and rulership over the family.
- We know the second meaning is the one applied to this verse in context because we just saw in Colossians 1 that Jesus himself was the actual CREATOR of ALL things.
20. And as the “Creator” of all things it is impossible for Jesus to meet the first definition of the “firstborn” in the sense of a firstborn child or one created.
- The context demands it means that Jesus is the firstborn in the sense of OVER all things.
21. Secondly, when the Bible speaks of Jesus being “begotten,” we know it can’t have the same meaning that it does to us today because we have already established that Jesus is the eternal God.
- What does it mean then?
22. It is simply referring to when God became a man.
- Or we would say when God manifested Himself to mankind in a new way.
23. Begotten (monogenes) - "pertaining to being the only one of its kind within a specific relationship; and pertaining to being the only one of its kind or class, unique in kind."

- Which doesn't mean He suddenly began.
- But rather, being God as man makes Him "the only one of His kind."

24. The next major doctrinal and theological issue we have to address is the Trinity itself.

- The Bible clearly teaches there is only ONE God, yet we see three different beings all declared as God.
- How is this possible?

25. It brings us to the undeniable dilemma of the Trinity.

- How can God be "One" yet have "multiple parts" as declared here?

26. If we were smart enough to understand everything about God, we would be as great as He is.

- But since we are not, we simply have to believe Him when He says He is "One" but made up of 3 different parts.
- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

27. Some say the Bible doesn't teach the Trinity.

- But right here in this verse it very clearly does.

28. It may help some to understand that there are two different Words in Hebrew for the word "one" in the Bible.

- Ehad and Yahid.

29. Yahid means an “absolute one” and that’s it.
 - Ehad also means one but means one with “compound unity.”
30. Such as I have one egg, but it has 3 parts.
 - The shell, the white, and the yoke.
 - It is only one, but it has “compound unity” or multiple parts.
31. This is especially interesting in light of Deuteronomy 6:4 where God says, “Here O Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is One.....”
 - The word “One” here is “Ehad,” meaning only One but with “compound unity.”
 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
32. Probably one of the clearest and best places to see the Trinity in action, besides here and in Genesis 1:1, is when we see Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist.
 - We see Jesus the Son in the water, we hear the Father’s voice speaking from heaven blessing the Son, and then we see the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon Him.
33. All 3 persons of the Godhead or Trinity in one spot at one time, yet all 3 in different places.
 - AND all 3 being magnified.
34. But the last place I want to go today is one of the most famous Christmas verses in the Bible.
 - And that is Isaiah 9:6.

35. First notice we are about to see what His “Name shall be called.”
- His Name is His very “essence” and “character”
36. And first He is identified as “wonderful.”
- It means to be “wonderful” or a “wonder.”
 - Amen to that!
37. Secondly, He is called “counsellor.”
- It means to “give counsel, deliberate, purpose, or determine.”
 - Which means when we need counsel or deliberation or a determination, He will provide it if we ask.
38. Thirdly, “mighty God.”
- It speaks of “might” and “power.”
 - And indeed, that is Who He is.
39. And the next one is the most challenging, but the most powerful of all in answering Who Jesus is.
- He is “everlasting Father.”
 - As we have already noted, not only ONE with the Father, but here it declares Jesus IS the Father Himself.
40. Again, how is this possible if He is at His right hand?
- While the Trinity is difficult for us to understand, this declares Jesus is the Father

simply manifested in a new way and different way as a man.

- Which makes it impossible for Him to be any less than the Father if He indeed IS the Father in a different manifestation.

41. Lastly, He is called the “Prince of Peace.”

- Literally the “Prince of Shalom,” which means the Prince of “completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, or a state of wholeness and unity with a restored relationship.”

42. So now that we have seen Who the true Jesus is today, you should also be able to see that He is Whoever or whatever you need Him to be for you today.

43. If you remember the meaning of “I am Who I am” in Exodus is literally, “I will be who I will be.”

- And now knowing Who the true Jesus is, you can know that He will be everything you need.
- Just cry out to Him and ask.

44. He is your God, your Father, your counselor, and your peace.

- And He is wonderful, very “wonderful!

45. Why not call on Him now?