

John-16
“Jesus Brings Division & Controversy”
John 7:1-13 (NIV)

Hey Newsong Church!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those watching online...

Those of you online...shout out where you're watching from!

If you're just joining us we're going through the Gospel of John...John was Jesus' best friend and he tells us some things about Jesus that we wouldn't know unless John wrote them down for us!

John doesn't just want us to know about Jesus...he wants us to believe in Jesus...to trust in Jesus so that we can be saved...

Series Verse

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.-Jn 20:31 (NIV)

As we move through the Gospel of John we see this rising tension around Jesus...Jesus loves people...but not everyone loves Him back...

People are confused as to Who Jesus is...And because there's confusion...there's division...

What we're going to see here in chapter 7 and beyond is that Jesus is surrounded by a lot of controversy...

Sammy did a great job last week...showing us how Jesus is saying a lot of things that people don't like...People are getting offended by what He's saying...In fact, at the end of chapter 6 many of Jesus' followers begin to walk away from Jesus...

This is still going on today...

Jesus is still saying a lot of things that people don't like...Jesus is still surrounded by controversy...Most people walk away from Jesus...but those who truly believe in Him have eternal life!

7 After this, (After what? After everything that happened in chapter six) **Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,**

Okay so here we see this tension, division and controversy...The religious leaders down in Jerusalem are growing very hostile towards Jesus...They don't like the things He's saying...and teaching...And they want to kill Him for it!

So Jesus is staying up north in Galilee and John tells us that it's time for the Festival of Tabernacles...

Now in John 6 it was the Feast of Passover...So about six months have passed between John 6 and John 7...

Passover is in the spring...Tabernacles is in the fall...Now this doesn't mean that Jesus wasn't doing anything for six months...

He was spending time with His disciples....He was teaching them...He's pouring into them...He's preparing them...discipling them...

John doesn't give us the details but Matthew does...**Matthew 15-18; Mark 7-9** will fill in the gaps...

It's the Festival of Tabernacles...This is one of the three major feasts on the Jewish calendar

Pentecost, Passover, and Tabernacles...These feast times were a requirement...you had to attend them!

The Feast of Tabernacles was to commemorate when God led Israel out of Egypt and how they traveled around for 40 years...living in these tabernacles or booths...

We would call them tents...this is a full week of mandatory camping...Now for some of you...you're like let's go camping!

Where's my campers at? Tent, sleeping bag, camp-fire, hunt or fish for your dinner! **Where's my glampers at?** Hotel, King size bed, room service...

The Feast of Tabernacles was a joyous time... It's where the family would build a tent for a week and tell stories about the faithfulness of God...

3 Jesus' brothers said to him, Now some of you are hearing this and you're like...wait what? Jesus had brothers? He sure did...and He had sisters too!

The Bible tells us that Mary was a virgin when she became pregnant with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit...It was a miracle...

But after she gave birth to Jesus...The Bible seems to indicate that Joseph and Mary did what healthy married couples do...and they had other children...

One of the places the Bible hints at Jesus having half-brothers and sisters is in Matthew 13...

Jesus is teaching in His hometown...

55 Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—"

James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?”-Mt 13:55–56 (NLT)

Can you imagine what it must have been like to have Jesus as your older Brother? You know at some point Joseph and Mary said to James... “Why can’t you be like your Brother?”

If you had an older sibling...you probably heard something like that growing up...or you had an older brother or sister that thought they were perfect...

Well imagine actually having an older brother who was in every way perfect...Never once disobeyed His parents...Was never late to school...always did his chores...He never sinned...

That’s some pressure to live up to...

You can imagine that Jesus' brothers probably had that sibling rivalry thing going...they were probably a little jealous...

If you grew up in the shadow of an older brother or sister...imagine growing up in the shadow of an older Brother who is God!

Jesus' brothers come to Him... ***“Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.*** Jesus' brothers don't believe that He is God...They're basically saying...Hey why are you hanging out up here...

If You're really who You say You are...go on up to Jerusalem and prove it!

As the song says If you can make it there...you can make it anywhere! You can feel the tension between Jesus and His brothers...

Remember, in Mark's Gospel Jesus' family actually thought He was crazy...They heard what Jesus was teaching...they saw the big crowds following Him...

21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.-Mk 3:21 (NLT)

Now eventually Jesus' family (at least a few of them do believe in Him)

After Jesus' resurrection...Jesus tells His disciples to go and wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit...

There's 120 of them praying in an upper room

14 They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus-Ac 1:14 (NLT)

James and Judas goes on to become leaders of the early Church...James is the author of the Book of James

And look at how he starts his letter...

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ-Jas 1:1 (NLT)

Judas is the author of Jude...

This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James-Jud 1 (NLT)

This shows a couple of hearts that have been changed...when a younger brother can introduce himself as a slave to his older Brother...that's God at work!

But for now, the brothers including James and Jude...they aren't there yet! They don't believe in Jesus...They may have seen some miraculous things...but they're not convinced enough to follow Him...

Likewise, you may have family members who see Jesus doing amazing things in your life, yet they don't believe in Him yet...Don't stop praying for them! Don't stop being a light...Don't stop living your life on purpose!

You never know, what God is doing inside their hearts!

So the brothers are telling Jesus to take His show on the road so to speak...go and prove it to the religious leaders in Jerusalem...

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do."

7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee-Jn 7:1–9 (NIV)

We must **KNOW** God’s will and **TRUST** in God’s timing

Jesus did everything according to the will of God...Everything He did was according to God’s timetable...

He’s saying to His brothers...Look guys you guys go on up to the feast together...have a good time...My time hasn’t come yet...

You know when the right time would be? About six months from now...because six months from the Feast of Tabernacles it would be time for Passover...

Jesus will ride on a donkey from the Mount of Olives down into the city...as people cry out “Hosanna” laying palm branches along the path...Publically revealing Himself as the Messiah...

And within a few days on Passover those same people will be shouting “Crucify Him”
And it’s all according to God’s timetable...

4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

-Ga 4:4–5 (NLT)

It all happened at the right time! Jesus knew His time was coming...but He also knew that now wasn’t that time...

So He has to be careful...He knows they want to kill Him...And He will surrender Himself to them...at the right time!

Jesus isn't afraid...He's wise...He knows God's plan and mission...He's now waiting for the right time...what about you?

When an opportunity comes do you rush into it or do you pray about it? Do you ask God if it's the right time?

I'm not sure if you've figured this out yet or not...but I've realized over the years that my timing and God's timing are usually different...

50 push up club/Arizona; texts at 2am

Sometimes that's how far my timing and God's timing seems to be...

Sometimes we know God's will but we act too quickly and we run ahead of God's timing...

We have to understand that God has a will for us and a time for us to do what He wills...

God may have a spouse for you...

He may have children for you...

He may have a career for you...

He may be calling you into the mission field...

He may be calling you into the ministry...

He may have a spiritual gift for you...

He will give these things to you...in His time!

We see this all through the Bible...with people like Noah, Moses, and Joseph...I'll give you three...

Abraham and Sarah...They were promised a son...They wanted him in their time...

Can't blame them...they were very old...
What happened?

They knew God's will...but they got ahead of
God's time...When God was taking too long,
they came up with their own plan...Sarah
decided to have Abraham sleep with her
servant Hagar...so they can have their son...

Abraham was like well I guess I have to take
one for the team...Boom Ishmael was
born...but He wasn't the son of the promise...

For some of you, that's the season you're in
right now...you went ahead of God and now
you're dealing with the consequences of your
decisions...

Maybe you're here today and you're frustrated
with God because His timing and your timing
are not the same...and you went out ahead of
God...

Remember this...God is full of grace and mercy...eventually He fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah

So my advice to you would be to keep loving and serving God...while you're waiting for His will to meet up with His timing!

David was anointed as a teen-aged boy by Samuel to be King... that was God's will...Even though Saul was the King...

David had a couple of opportunities over the years to actually kill Saul and become King...he even had people tell him that it was God's will to do so...but David didn't get ahead of God...

He ended up waiting about 15 years or so before he became King...It was all in God's time...

Jesus understood the importance of waiting on God's timing...

If you **STAND** with Jesus, expect the world to **HATE** you

7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.

We're either with Jesus or we're with the world...

We live according to the Kingdom of light or we live according to the Kingdom of darkness...

Now remember, At this point...Jesus' brothers are unbelievers...so what He's saying is...

You belong to the world so the world isn't going to hate you...It's not going to punish you...because you're on the same team!

Jesus is saying you guys agree with the world's system...so of course the world isn't going to hate you...It hates Me because I call out the evil things that the world does...

Isn't that still true today?

The world calls bad good and good bad...

It calls right wrong and wrong right...

It loves things that God hates...

And hates things that God loves...

This is what makes the Biblical Jesus the most loved and despised Person who has ever lived!

This is why the Bible is the most cherished book and the most hated book at the same time!

People have no problem with Jesus as long as He agrees with everything they do and say...As long as He doesn't say that what they are doing is sinful!

So many people have this idea that Jesus was this non-confrontational, non-controversial, nice guy...who never said anything bad about anyone...

The problem with that idea...is that's not the Jesus of the Bible...In John 2 Jesus made a whip and chased people out of the Temple...

He called the religious leaders (who were the politicians of His day) hypocrites, snakes, white washed tombs...

People don't like the Biblical Jesus...because He calls out sin...because His words are offensive to them...and they hate Him for it!

"The world is hostile to Christ. The reason is that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. He turns on that Light, and that Light reveals everything that is wrong; it reveals sin. He condemns sin.

That is the reason He is hated today” He condemns sin by His very presence, by His very life. This raises a hostility in man because the heart of man is evil. Christ went to the Cross because He loved the human family. Redeeming love is what has broken the heart of hostile man. -J Vernon McGee

The fact of the matter is that apart from Jesus, we are all on the wrong side...no matter how good we think we are...

The Bible tells us...

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard-Ro 3:23 (NLT)

Everyone means everyone...We’ve all sinned against God...And so we all have a penalty that needs to be paid...

23 For the wages of sin is death...-Ro 6:23 (NLT)

Because of our sin we all deserve death...
But God out of His love for us gives us a free gift

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord-Ro 6:23 (NLT)

How is Jesus a gift to us? Because God loves us He sends Jesus as a substitute for us...Jesus paid for our sin with His life...

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners-Ro 5:8 (NLT)

Now every person who humbles themselves, turns from their sin and makes Jesus Lord of their life can be saved...

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.-Ro 10:9–10 (NLT)

All you have to do is cry out to Jesus...

13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”-Ro 10:13 (NLT)

Now because Jesus has paid the debt we owe...we can experience peace with God...

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.-Ro 5:1 (NLT)

This is Good News! But not everyone wants to hear it...not everyone wants to accept it!

Do you remember back in John 3 when Jesus was talking to Nicodemus?

Jesus explains it this way...

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. **18** “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. **19** And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. **20** All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. **21** But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”-Jn 3:16–21 (NLT)

If you claim to love Jesus but you are comfortable with the world and it's sinful ways then you need to ask yourself a really important question...

Whose kingdom do I belong too? Am I on team Jesus or team Satan? If sin doesn't bother you...If the world doesn't get angry with you from time to time...

You need to really think about these words from the Apostle Paul...

5 Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith-2 Co 13:5 (NLT)

Again...If you love the darkness...If you have no problem living in your sin...if you never find yourself going against the flow of the world...

If you have no fear of God...If you have no love for the things of God...then you are not on Jesus' side...

“If you preach the truth of God with fearless fidelity, you will arm the whole world against you”-Martin Luther

Jesus tells his brothers...hey guys I'm not going up to Jerusalem with you...we're on different teams...

9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is he?” 12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.”

13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.-Jn 7:9-13 (NIV)

Notice that Jesus didn't give in to the pressure to go up to Jerusalem with everyone else...Jesus wasn't a people pleaser... He lived to please God...

He gets there secretly...He probably took the back roads with just His disciples...When He gets there...We see all of this controversy surrounding Jesus beginning to build up...

You can't live off of the crowds OPINION of Jesus

Notice that everybody's got an opinion about Jesus...

The Religious Leaders are looking for Him...These are Jesus' enemies...they hate Him and want to get rid of Him...kill him...

But then look at verse 12...you've got the crowd of people...they're all talking about Jesus...

Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people."

This is still true today...These same groups of people still talk about Jesus...

There are some people who will say Jesus was a good man...a wise teacher...but He wasn't God

There are others who will say no...Jesus was a fraud...He was a liar...a trixter...He was the worlds greatest illusionist...He fooled everybody...He was a deceiver...

Then there are those today who are just straight up enemies of God...they hate Jesus and everything that He represents...and they will do anything to kill His message and keep people from following Him...

So many people today are still trying to figure out who Jesus is...

Was Jesus just a good man?

Was Jesus a liar and a deceiver?

Was Jesus crazy...Thinking He was God?

Do you know which of these options is the worst one?

That Jesus was just a good man...

Do you know why?

Because Jesus said some incredible things about Himself that imply He's more than a man...

I love how David Guzik points this out...
Let's look the incredible statements that Jesus
has made in the first seven chapters of John...

He said He would raise Himself from the
dead...**John 2:19-22**

He said He came down from Heaven...**John
3:13**

He said that if you believe in Him you will have
eternal life...**John 3:16**

He said that He gives Living Water...**John 4:10**

He said that He is the Messiah...**John 4:26**

He said He would judge the whole world...**John
5:22**

He said that everyone should honor Him just as
they honor God the Father in Heaven **John
5:23**

He said that He would raise the dead...**John 5:25**

He said that the Hebrew Scriptures speak about Him and point to Him...**John 5:39**

He said that believing on Him was the most important work that a person can do to please God...**John 6:29**

He said that He is the Bread of Life...**John 6:35**

Now think about this...Jesus said these things about Himself...

When you understand these claims that Jesus made about Himself...you have two choices...

He was right about those claims or He was wrong about those claims...

If Jesus was right...then He is God! He deserves our worship, and our life surrendered to His will!

If God became a Man and walked on this earth and told us that He was the only way to heaven and that we had to believe in Him and surrender our will and our life to Him...

Then He backed up everything He said by rising from the dead...then why wouldn't we want to do everything He asks of us?

If Jesus was not truly who He said He was...Then there are only two options...Either He knew He wasn't God...and He lied...

Pause for a second...Would a liar be considered a good moral teacher? No...

Either He was a liar or He actually thought He was God in the flesh when He really wasn't...which would make Him crazy

In his classic book "Mere Christianity" C.S. Lewis who was not only an agnostic but also a professor at Cambridge University He wrote about this idea...He said Jesus was either a Liar, a Lunatic or Lord

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say.

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice.

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.

You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to”

Now there were people following Jesus who although they didn't have all of the answers...they knew He was Lord...

Remember what Peter said after many of Jesus' disciples walk away from Him...Jesus said to His twelve disciples are you going to leave too?

68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”-Jn 6:68–69 (NIV)

We can't live our life following the crowds opinion of who Jesus is...

Everybody is going to have an opinion about Jesus...your parents...your professors...your friends...your favorite artists...but at some point, **you have to decide for yourself who He is...**

Is Jesus Who He says He is or not?

You can't borrow your parents faith...

You can't borrow your favorite artists beliefs...

You can't borrow the cultures version of Jesus

There comes a moment where you have to decide am I going to surrender and make Jesus the Lord of my life...

Or am I going to let everyone else define Who He is?

“Jesus is too important to be reduced to someone else’s opinion...you have to answer the question for yourself.”

I’m going to leave you with a question that Jesus asks in Matthew 16...

**15...“*But who do you say I am?*”-Mt 16:15
(NLT)**

What’s the Holy Spirit Saying To You?

I want to talk to you if you’re far away from God...You heard the Gospel today...

Jesus is the Son of God...

Jesus lived a perfect life...

Jesus died for your sins...

He rose so that you can be forgiven, restored
and made new...

Today He's inviting you not into a religion...but
into a personal relationship with Him

When you accept that invitation...

You cross from death to life...

Your past is forgiven...

Your sins are washed away...

Your future is secure in Jesus...

But it does require a response...

So today, if you're ready to stop living off of
secondhand faith...and you're ready to
surrender your life to Him as Lord and Savior...

I want to pray with you!

Altar Time

Believer...Maybe you're here today and you're wondering what is my purpose...what does God want me to do...We want to pray for you... Maybe you're waiting on God's timetable...You know what His will is but it's hard to wait on Him...We want to pray for you...

Maybe today you have a need...You need provision, you need direction...you need healing...Jesus is Lord! We can come to Him! We want to pray for you!