

- In this section of John 8, Jesus once again finds Himself surrounded by controversy ... He's being questioned about the testimony of who He is ([8:13, 25, 48, 53, 59](#)) ... Today, 'who Jesus is' continues to cause controversy ... Why?
- Because, all Jesus has said and done, all that He is, rubs against our human nature ... As Jesus presents Himself before us, we see in Him what we are not, and can never be outside of Him ... And at our core, humanity wants to be in control of our own life ... We don't like to be wrong; we don't like to mess up or in need of being saved ... We don't like not having full control of things ... We want to be the only god that we serve and give our life to ...
- So, when Jesus says, **I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me ... If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me; or even, one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone** ... He reveals to us our humanity for what it is, and He presents Himself as our only solution ... In response, people naturally push against Him – don't we? ...
- Even as Christians, we're slow to hear ... We're slow to understand ... Slow to give God the freedom to change all the things within us that stand opposed to Him and who He calls us to be ... And if you're thinking of someone else who needs this transformation, and not of your own need for God's transformation, the Spirit may be shining a light on an area in your life that needs to be exposed ... None of us are as we should be ...
 - Let's be honest, whether intentionally or unintentionally, Christians are good at calling out the sins of others better than calling out our own sin ... As Jesus says, we see the speck in someone else's eye, while a log protrudes out of our own eye ... All sin in our life, no matter how big or small, deserves the judgment of God ... And yet, in His kindness, God extends to you and me not His judgment, but His salvation through Jesus ... In understanding the reality of our condition, we then understand the reality of our need for Jesus ... Not as a one-time event, but as a daily practice
- [Jo8:30](#), we're told, as Jesus was speaking, **many believed in Him** ... So, Jesus turns to them and presses on what they believe about Him ... As He does, they become more defensive ... What He says is challenging their traditions and beliefs about what it really means to be children of Abraham, and to call God their Father ... See, to them, they aren't the ones who are guilty of being unrighteous ... They're not like those who are blatant sinners ... But natural descent does not automatically make one a child of Abraham ... It's not the physical that makes one a child, rather it's the spiritual ... *If you truly belonged to Abraham, then you would believe as Abraham believed, and you would know that I am He who Abraham rejoiced to see* ([8:39, 56](#)) ...
 - [Gen15:6](#) – **Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness** ... He stood before the Lord justified, not by works, but by faith ... Not a theoretical faith; one that was tangible ... His was a faith that was deeply tested; a faith that experienced success and a faith that experienced suffering ... **He was fully convinced that what God had promised, He was also able to do** ([Rom4:21](#)) ... He saw from a distance what God promised ([Heb11:13](#)) ... What Abraham saw, and what his faith and hope took root in, was Christ ... Because Christ is the perfect fulfillment of every promise of God ([2Cor1:20](#)) ...
 - By faith in who Christ is and what He has done, do people enter salvation, and does Abraham become the father of many nations ... Those who truly belong to Abraham, then, are those who truly belong to Christ ... We show ourselves as belonging to Christ as we abide in His word – who He is, what He said, the example He calls us to imitate ([8:31](#)) ...
 - This is where Jesus wants the conversation to go ... For the people to understand what it truly means to be descendants of Abraham ... What it truly means to call God your Father ... What it truly means to believe in the Savior He's revealing ... If we allow Him, Jesus will shatter every preconceived notion about who He is and what He's willing to do, and what it means to truly believe in Him and follow Him ...

- And in many ways, this is what Jesus is doing when He declares “I Am ...” ... The 7 statements ... Jesus also uses the absolute “I Am” – 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5 ...
- And if this is who He is, then you and I are left with only two options: either we reject Him or we receive Him ...
 - If you reject Him, then you face God’s wrath and judgment on your own ... You, then, are the one who pays the full penalty for your sin ... This is a punishment none of us can endure ...
 - If you receive Him, then you believe that He is God the Son, whose death on the cross has sufficiently and perfectly paid the full penalty for your sin ... That He was raised to everlasting life, who sits on the Throne, who reigns supreme over every authority, every principality in heaven and on earth, in the physical realm and in the spiritual realm ... And if this is true, then you must submit yourself to everything He has said, and submit to the way of life He calls you to imitate ...
- In understanding the reality of our condition, we then understand the reality of our need for Jesus ... Not as a one-time event, but as a daily practice ... None of us are as we should be ... But by grace through faith, is Jesus making us into who we are in Him ... And as Abraham looked forward to the coming of Christ, so you and I look forward to His return ... In Him alone, then, do we place our life and faith and hope ...

Jesus’ “I Am” Statements

Absolute “I am” statements	6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5
Metaphorical “I am” statements	
1. I am the bread of life	6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world	8:12; 9:5
3. I am the door of the sheep	10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd	10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life	11:25
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life	14:6
7. I am the true vine	15:1

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