

I AM – Encountering the Identity of Jesus

The Bread that Satisfies

The Gospel of John: A Case Presented

Purpose of the Gospel

John 20:31

“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John presents a case for Jesus through:

- Witnesses who testify
- Signs that serve as evidence
- Jesus’ own claims about Himself

Every witness, sign, and statement leads to one question:

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Two Possible Responses

Believe or Reject

John 3:18

Two responses to Jesus:

- **Believe → Life**
- **Reject → Remain condemned**

John 3:18 reminds us that belief in the Son brings freedom from condemnation, while rejection leaves a person already condemned.

The Case John Is Presenting

Opening Statement – John 1:1–18

The Identity of the Word

John introduces Jesus with creation language.

John 1:1–5

The Word is:

- With God
- God
- Creator of all things
- The source of life
- The light of humanity

The Response of the World

John 1:10–11

- The Creator entered His creation
- The world did not recognize Him
- His own people did not receive Him

The Promise to those who Believe

John 1:12–13

Those who receive Him and believe in His name are given the right to become **children of God**.

John's Declaration

John 1:14, 16–18

- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- John and others observed His glory
- Jesus is the unique Son of the Father
- Jesus reveals the Father to us

John's opening statement can be summarized this way:

To know Jesus as the Son is to know the Father.

Why is this important?

John 17:3

“This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ.”

Two Objectives of John's Gospel

1. Establish what makes Jesus unique

- He was with God
- He was God

2. Reveal the way to sonship

John 1:12

All who receive Him are given the right to become children of God.

Objective 1 — Jesus Is Different

The Unique Son of God

John 3:16–17

The word **monogenēs** means:

- The unique Son
- The one-of-a-kind Son
- Completely unlike any other

Two Spiritual Fathers - In John 8, Jesus contrasts two spiritual origins:

God

- Freedom
- Life

The Devil

- Slavery
- Death

John 8:44

“You are of your father the devil...”

Jesus’ Claim About Himself

John 8:58

“Before Abraham was, I am.”

The phrase “**Ego eimi**” (**I Am**) reveals:

- His identity
- His divine origin

Evidence Observed by John

John 18:4–6

At Jesus’ arrest:

- The soldiers ask for Jesus of Nazareth
- Jesus responds, “I am”
- The soldiers step back and fall to the ground

The Greek word **pipto** describes falling to the ground in astonishment or terror.

Jesus’ Authority

John 10:18

“No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down on my own.”

John’s testimony is clear:

Jesus’ authority and origin are not of this world.

Again, John presses the question:

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?

Objective 2 – The Way to Sonship

John not only reveals who Jesus is, but how belief in Him leads to becoming a child of God. The path unfolds through the **seven “I Am” statements** of Jesus.

The Way to Sonship:

- Believe → The Bread of Life
- Follow → The Light of the World
- Enter → The Door
- Rest → The Good Shepherd
- Trust → The Resurrection and the Life
- Walk → The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- Abide → The True Vine

The Journey Begins With Faith

John 6 – The Bread of Life

Jesus feeds the five thousand.

The crowd follows Him seeking more bread.

Jesus challenges their motives.

The Work God Requires

John 6:29

“This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent.”

Jesus’ Declaration

John 6:35

“I am the bread of life.”

The Father’s Will

John 6:38–40

Jesus explains that the Father’s will is:

- That people see the Son
- That they believe in Him
- That they receive eternal life
- That they will be raised on the last day

Many people found this teaching difficult and turned away.

Why This Teaching Is Hard

Genesis 3:19

After the fall, human life became marked by:

- Toil
- Sweat
- Survival

Human life became defined by **striving**.

The Human Condition

People pursue fulfillment through many things:

- Family
- Education
- Career
- Pleasure
- Substances
- Achievement

Yet many still feel unsatisfied.

Scripture describes this as a deeper spiritual hunger.

The Blessing of Hunger

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
Spiritual hunger can become the doorway to true life.

Where Life Comes From

John 6:63

“The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all.”

The life we strive to maintain through effort is the life Jesus came to give.

But that life does not come through:

- The work of our hands
- The sweat of our brow

It comes through **faith in the Son of God**.

The Challenge of Faith

Jesus does not promise to remove:

- Affliction
- Distress
- Persecution
- Hardship

Instead, He promises life that truly satisfies.

The Decision Moment

John’s Gospel continually brings us back to the same question:

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Peter and the twelve realized that there was nowhere else to go.

Only Jesus had **the words of eternal life**. (John 6:68)

Key Truth

The hunger of the human heart is not satisfied by striving.

It is satisfied by **believing in the Son**.

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”