

## “Who is Jesus?”: One with God – Part 2

John 10:30-42

### INTRODUCTION

- Explain v.30 again to explain context of the Jews’ anger
- Remember the context... It is the Feast of Dedication (Festival of Lights – Hanukah) – winter has hit and Christ is in the busy colonnade of Solomon
- Arian Controversy – Council of Nicea
  - Arius affirmed that "the son, born of the Father before all time, created and constituted in being before all ages, did not exist before He was begotten." ... To say that God was Father and Son and Holy Spirit would subdivide that being who is by definition, according to Arius, an indivisible unity. He wrote: "For God to impart His substance to some other being, however exalted, would imply that He is divisible (*diaretos*) and subject to change (*treptos*), which is inconceivable."
  - Excommunicated from the church in 318 AD, which gave way to a council to affirm orthodox Christology in 325 AD – the Nicene Creed was then formed to affirm (not explain) the full deity of Christ
  - Athanasius was a theologian who helped lead the case against Arius, but his influence was mostly after the Council because Arianism kept coming back in force (why wouldn't it, because no religious leader wants to share glory with the God-man, Christ) – Athanasius stood firm for many years, through many exiles (totaling 17 years)
  - **THE NICENE CREED** (adopted A.D. 325; revised at Constantinople, A.D. 381)
    - *I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*
    - *And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for*

*our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

- *And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

### 1) One With God – The Problem (vv.31-33)

#### a) Claim to Deity (v.31)

- i) They understood the claim
- ii) God’s timing

#### b) Being Blind (vv.32-33)

- i) It is for Blasphemy – only time “blasphemy” is used in John
- ii) It is blasphemy only if He isn’t true
- iii) Penalty for blasphemy was stoning

(1) **Lev.24:16**, *“Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”*

(2) **1 Kings 21:10,13**, *“10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” ...13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.”*

**c) Application:**

- i) What of His works?
- ii) If you believe Him to be one with God, how can you resist Him? If you do not believe Him to be who He says He is, then you simply believe Him to be a blasphemer. There really is no in-between.
- iii) Believer, there is a nuanced application here for us... If we have believed on Him, yet live lives contrary to Him, what does that say about who we believe Christ to be?

**2) One with God – The Truth (vv.34-38)**

**a) The Truth of Scripture (vv.34-36)**

- i) **Psalm 82:6,7**, *“6 I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.”*
- ii) Some claim this is a “dumbing down” of Christ’s deity. But that is not in context with all of scripture, and certainly not more immediately with John’s gospel (John 1:1)
- iii) He is arguing in a rabbinic way with a return question and a base-line argument, essentially saying that the administrators of God’s laws (whether civil or religious) are called “sons of God”

iv) There is a “how much more” type of statement in verse 36. Christ says that He is the “Holy one” of God, not an appointed “judge” as in Ps.82:6

- (1) “Sanctified” means “holy one” – because we, as Christians, are being “sanctified” some take this to say that Jesus was not God because he was being made more like God and cleansed of sin much like we are.
  - (a) In fact, this can shed light on our understanding of sanctified
  - (b) **Heb.12:14**, *“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”*
- (2) This idea is that in Psalm 82, verse 7 speaks of their demise, although given a position of authority by God
- (3) Christ, all the more, validates His “Godness” by His works and actions

**b) The Truth of Works (vv.37-38)**

- i) Bear witness to testimony and the scriptures
- ii) Starting with knowledge before faith?
  - (1) There is a starting point with knowledge - this is not saving knowledge, but initial assent to the facts
  - (2) This may lead to saving faith (Christ rarely calls for this kind of knowledge prior to faith - blessed condescension)
  - (3) Intimate knowledge of grace and truth follows authentic faith
  - (4) PROBLEM... Many remain with the initial assent never experience saving faith

iii) Reiterates the truth of the scriptures and His works – He is one with God!

**c) Application:**

- i) Do you have only the information but not the sonship with Christ?
- ii) Do you believe Christ to be one with God and the only way?

**3) One with God - The Results (vv.39-42)**

**a) His Enemies (v.39)**

**b) His Place (v.40)**

- i) This is the place of His initial inauguration into His public ministry.
- ii) Isn't it interesting that as His public ministry is beginning to near the cross, and during the unsanctioned Feast of Dedication (recapturing of the temple), which the Temple is Christ's reference for Himself in John 2:19, that He would return to where He was first "dedicated" by God to be His only one.
- iii) It was a more obscure place where only those who were interested would come.

**c) His Sheep (vv.41-42)**

- i) **John 1:29-34**, "**29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." **32** And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said

*to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' **34** And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

- ii) **John 3:25-30**, "**25** Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. **26** And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." **27** John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. **28** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' **29** The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **30** He must increase, but I must decrease."

**d) Application:**

- i) What will be the result for you today?
- ii) Do you only claim Christ when it is convenient and without resistance, or are you willing to follow Him in obscurity, even if the world will hate you as He promised it would?