

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:6-8**

### Chapter 26- Understanding and Valuing the Doctrine of the Trinity

### 233 Our Triune God Part 5

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WAOY Wednesday 08/13/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Doctrine of the Trinity". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5:6-8** again together:

**6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.**

**7 For there are three that testify:**

**8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.**

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over a little about just Who Jesus is and we need to continue that on today's broadcast. Jesus Christ is the most unique and special Person who ever lived. Nobody was like Jesus before and nobody has been like Jesus since. He is an Original. In fact, Jesus was so special and so unique that words had to be *invented* to describe Him. The Apostle John wrote about Jesus' uniqueness in his Gospel account. So let's read a very familiar passage in **John 1:1-4**:

**1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**2 He was in the beginning with God.**

**3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

**4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.**

Now from these four verses we can see several things that are true about Who Jesus is:

1. He was with God in the Beginning
2. He was God
3. That He created all things
4. That He is both Light and Life to men

Now read with me verse 14 of the same Chapter:

**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Now from this verse we see that the very same Word that was with God and the very same Word that was with God in the beginning and the very same Word that was God and the very same Word that created all things and the very same Word that was both light and Life to men is the very same Word that became flesh and dwelt among John and the other Apostles that was full of both Grace and Truth.

So without any doubt and without any hesitation- we know that Jesus Christ was God Almighty with a human fleshly Body. He was Yahweh draped in human flesh. God the Father does not have a body- He is pure Spirit. But when God drapes Himself with flesh- God the Father is Jesus the Son.

The Christian Church has believed and confessed that Jesus is God from the very beginning. And this one single fact is what separates Biblical Christianity from every other religion and every other human philosophy on earth. So, Jesus is more than just a Man; Jesus is more than an angel; Jesus is more than a Teacher; Jesus is more than a moral example; Jesus is more than a prophet; Jesus is more than a good person- Jesus is God.

And for 2,000 years, just Who Jesus is- has been at the center of more controversy than any other subject. Nobody but born again regenerated souls fully trusts that Jesus is God. Everybody else on earth from the atheist to the Jehovah's Witness to the Mormon to the Muslim all believe that Jesus was something *other* than God. And no other institution on earth teaches that Jesus was God except the Christian Church.

The fact that Jesus is God was the source of almost all the persecution that Jesus Himself went through while He was on earth. And the testimony that Christians believe that Jesus is God is the

source of all persecution from every other group on earth since the Upper Room. This is why the Jews hated Jesus and still do- because Jesus made Himself equal with God. This is why the pagan Roman Government persecuted the Church so horribly; this is why Christians have been tortured and beaten throughout the centuries- because we say and we believe that Jesus is God and then we say that true Salvation cannot be found anywhere else or through anybody else except Jesus. And the pagan world doesn't like that.

Dear friends, knowing and believing and confessing and trusting that Jesus is God is paramount to being saved as Paul declares in **Romans 10:9**. And every single Book in the New Testament upholds that Confession.

The unbelieving world and evil proponents of other religions would want to distort Who Jesus is and they would want to manufacture another "Jesus" who is different from the Christ of Scripture. And so part of the Church's mandate on earth for over 2,000 years has been to maintain and clearly articulate Who Jesus is and to teach those who are saved Who Jesus is and to defend Who Jesus is against all who would try to alter or change or add to or take away anything that the Scriptures reveal about Jesus.

So it is no wonder, dear friends, that the issue of just Who Jesus is- has been the focal point of almost every battle *inside* the Church since the very beginning- as those who are faithful- endeavor to maintain the purity of the Gospel. Christianity has always defended the Person of Jesus Christ in both His Divinity and in His Humanity from all attacks both from within and without the walls of the Church. And so those who do not defend the full Deity and full Humanity of Jesus against those same attacks today- have denied the Faith.

You see, dear friends, as you discuss Who Jesus is- you must remember that nobody is like Jesus. Jesus is fully God and fully Man in the same Body at the same time without conflict or contradiction. So special care has to be taken when discussing Jesus so that we do not emphasize His Deity over His Humanity or that we do not emphasize His Humanity over His Deity.

Now I realize that most people today yawn about all this and say, *"Who cares? Who cares about all this hair splitting? We don't need to know all this stuff, Brother Blair. All we need to do is love Jesus and serve Jesus."*

But please hear me when I say that it is precisely because we do need to love and serve Jesus as to why we need to know Who Jesus is. Not knowing or not believing what the Bible teaches about Jesus is why so many cults have sprung up and why ancient heresies are deceiving people today. So this stuff is important even if it may seem to be complicated because God said that it was important. Please read with me a very important Passage from **Mark 12:28-31**:

**28** One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

**29** Jesus answered, "*The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;*

**30** *AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'*

**31** "*The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'* There is no other commandment greater than these."

Here Jesus Himself said that we are to love God with all our minds and not just all our hearts. So knowing Jesus rightly and fully is part and parcel to loving Him. You cannot love someone who you don't know and the Bible says that you cannot know Jesus simply with your heart- you must know Him and love Him and Worship with your mind as well as your heart.

God gave us a mind, beloved, so that we would know God and by knowing God- we would love and worship God. So we are not supposed to park our brains at the front door of the Church, dear friends- God wants His people to think clearly and to reason truly and to know certainly Who Jesus is –to the end that our love for Him and our worship of Him will bring God the ultimate Glory and in doing this- our joy will be full.

And today- in many areas- believers are taught that to develop our minds is somehow a bad thing. Some teach that God cannot move in and with and through people who are thinking clearly- that we must suspend our thoughts in order to be "in the Spirit" and that is simply not true.

The modern Church has emphasized loving Jesus with our hearts so much that we have forgotten that we are to also love God with all our minds as well. So we need to get this right lest we find ourselves doing what those people in Ephesus were doing in **The Acts 17** and worship an unknown “god”.

So we must know Who Jesus is and we are told over and over and over again all throughout the New Testament that the Gospel is something very specific that we must get right because if we get it wrong or if we preach or teach or believe what is called, “another” gospel- then we are in for big trouble. Please read with me what the Apostle Paul said about this in **Galatians 1:8&9**:

**8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!**

**9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!**

Now notice that Paul used the term, “**we**” here- meaning if any of the other Apostles or even an angel from Heaven preach any other “gospel” other than the one single true Gospel that the Apostles spelled out in great detail right here in the 21 Epistles of the New Testament- that the person who does this is cursed forever.

Now I know that language like that bothers people today but I didn’t write that verse, beloved. The Apostle Paul wrote this and this Passage is just as inspired and just as inerrant and just as true as **John 3:16** is.

Now why is Paul so serious about this? Why didn’t Paul say, like so many say today, that what we believe about Jesus really doesn’t matter? Because it *does* matter. And the truth is that if we preach another “gospel” that is not the *true, biblical* Gospel and people believe in the false “gospel” that we preach- if they put their trust and their faith in a false “Jesus” that is different from the Jesus of Scripture- then they cannot be saved. And *that* is why all this matters.

Now I have said this many times before on this broadcast- but it needs to be repeated here again. The Apostles were a group of the most loving and kind and generous and gentlemen that the world has ever seen. They worked with the worst of society and they labored under terrible conditions. They wept when people would weep and they

rejoiced when people rejoiced. They would be your best friends as long as you were sincerely trying to love and serve Jesus Christ.

But if anyone snuck into the Church with the idea of monkeying around with the Gospel or if they tried to preach another “Jesus” or if they taught things that were false- these same gentle, kind, and loving men turned into pit bulls. The Apostles would be your worst nightmare because they were given the task of not only *establishing* Christianity on the earth- but with also *defending* the biblical Gospel against any and all who tried to change it.

So as long as they were alive- Christianity meant something very specific. And so they wrote down their Teachings in the 21 New Testament Epistles so that we would have them today. And so now our task is to clearly and fully teach the very *same* Gospel that the Apostles taught and to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered unto the saints.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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