

The Gospel According to John “Jesus’ Identity and Authority”

John 3:22-36



John 3:22-26

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized — for John had not yet been thrown into prison. Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

John 3:27-30

John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice.

So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John 3:31-33

He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true.

John 3:33-36

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God;
for He gives the Spirit without measure.

The Father loves the Son
and has given all things into His hand.

He who believes in the Son has eternal life;
but he who does not obey the Son will not see life,
but the wrath of God abides on him.

Main Idea

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, *the* source of life; and to Him God has given all authority in heaven and on earth, and to Him full faith and allegiance is due.

The Setting and Circumstances

John 3:22-24

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Jesus' Identity and Authority

The Jews' problem



The Jews' Problem

They were focused on externals.

John 3:25-26

Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew **about purification.**

And they came to John and said to him,
"Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan,
to whom you have testified, behold,
He is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

The Jews were not listening to John or looking to Christ but were looking to ceremonies and purification rituals and wanted to argue about them.

Their worship was external!

The Jews' Problem

They were focused on externals.

They were peddling envy.

John 3:26

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What was driving John's thinking?

Deuteronomy 5:21
“You shall not covet.”

NCC

What does God require in the 10th commandment?

**“That we are content, not envying anyone
or resenting what God has given them or us.”**

The Jews were envious and resentful
and were seeking to insight John
to envy and resentment.

But John understood the program!

John 3:27

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

The Jews' Problem

They were focused on ceremony.

They were peddling envy.

They refused to listen.

John 3:31-32

He who comes from heaven is above all.
What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies;
and **no one receives His testimony.**

Though some Jews did believe,
the portion that did not was so large
as to allow John to say “no one” did.

The Jews refused to listen to John,
and they refused to listen to Jesus even
while witnessing His works, and even
now many refuse to listen to Jesus
though His Word to us is clear.

Jesus' Identity and Authority

The Jews' problem

John's responses and Jesus' identity



John's Responses, Jesus Identity

“I am not the Christ, Jesus is.”

John 3:27-28

John answered and said...

“You yourselves are my witnesses that I said,
‘I am not the Christ,’ but,
‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’

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That Jesus is the Christ
is a predominating theme of John's
gospel and must be a predominating
theme of our lives even now.

John's Responses, Jesus Identity

"I am not the Christ, Jesus is."

"I have been sent by God, but He *is* God."

John 3:27-28

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“You yourselves are my witnesses that I said,
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John recognized that he had been sent as a forerunner, a messenger to proclaim the identity of this One who was before Him and above Him.

John 1:15

John testified about Him and cried out, saying,
“This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me
has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’”

John 1:1

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

John's Responses, Jesus Identity

"I am not the Christ, Jesus is."

"I have been sent by God, but He is God."

"I am not the bridegroom, Jesus is."

John 3:29

He who has the bride is the bridegroom;
but the friend of the bridegroom,
who has stood and who hears him,
rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice.
So this joy of mine has been made full.

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Who is the bride?

Who is the bride?

Isaiah 54:5-6

“For your husband is your Maker,
Whose name is the LORD of hosts;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,
Who is called the God of all the earth.
For the LORD has called you,
Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected,”
Says your God.

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Says your God.

What do we know about this now?

Ephesians 5:25 and 32

Husbands, love your wives,
just as Christ also loved the church
and gave Himself up for her...

This mystery is great;
but **I am speaking with reference to Christ**
and the church.

And Looking Ahead...

Revelation 19:6-9

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come

and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her
to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean;
for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"

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who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"

The Bride is the people of God,
the Church, and She has been given
to Christ; He is the Bridegroom, and
John is the friend rejoicing greatly.

John's Responses, Jesus Identity

"I am not the Christ, Jesus is."

"I have been sent by God, but He is God."

"I am not the bridegroom, Jesus is."

"I am from the earth and earthy;
Jesus is from above and above all."

John 3:31

He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth.

He who comes from heaven is above all.

John 3:31

He who comes from above is above all, **he who is**
of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth.

He who comes from heaven is above all.

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of the earth is from the earth **and speaks of the earth.**

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He who **comes from above** is above all, he who is
of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth.

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He who comes from above **is above all**, he who is
of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth.

He who comes from heaven **is above all**.

John was a mere man,
but Jesus is the Godman who has
come from above and is above all
in knowledge, power and authority!

Jesus' Identity and Authority

The Jews' problem

John's responses and Jesus' identity

Jesus' identity and His authority



Jesus' Identity and His Authority

Jesus is from above and speaks for God.

John 3:31-33

He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth.

He who comes from heaven is above all.

What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies;
and no one receives His testimony.

He who has received His testimony
has set his seal to this, that God is true.

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What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies;
and no one receives His testimony.

He who has received His testimony

has set his seal to this, **that God is true.**

Jesus so speaks for God that
to disbelieve what Jesus says
is to call God a liar!

What does this mean in respect
to Jesus' authority?

John 3:34

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God;
for He gives the Spirit without measure.

John 3:34

**For He whom God has sent
speaks the words of God;
for He gives the Spirit without measure.**

Jesus' Identity and His Authority

Jesus is from above and speaks for God.

Jesus is God's Son
and has been given all things.

John 3:35

The Father loves the Son
and has given all things into His hand.

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John 3:35

The Father loves the Son

and **has given all things into His hand.**

John 13:3

Jesus, knowing that **the Father had given all things into His hands**, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God...

Matthew 28:18

All authority has been given to me
in heaven and on earth.

It is tempting to think of Jesus' tenderness and forget that He, like His Father, is a *Sovereign* who has been given all authority and who rules with justice!

Jesus' Identity and His Authority

Jesus is from above and speaks for God.

Jesus is God's Son and has been given all things.

Jesus is *the* source of life
and gives it to whom He wishes.

John 1:4

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

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son **has** eternal **life**;
but he who does not obey the Son will not see life,
but the wrath of God abides on him.

Jesus is Life and gives life!

John 5:26

For just as the Father has life in Himself,
even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.

John 5:21

...the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

To whom does He give this life?

John 3:36

The one believing in the Son
has eternal life...

Are you believing in the Son?

Jesus' Identity and His Authority

Jesus is from above and speaks for God.

Jesus is God's Son and has been given all things.

Jesus is the source of life and gives it to whom He wishes.

**Jesus is the Christ to whom full faith
and allegiance is due.**

Remember what John said...

John 3:28

“You yourselves are my witnesses that I said,
‘I am not the Christ,’ but,
‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’

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Jesus is the anointed Son, the Christ,
and He must be received ***as*** the Christ!

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has eternal life;
but he who does not obey the Son will not see life,
but the wrath of God abides on him.

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Belief cannot be separated from obedience!

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has eternal life;

but **he who does not obey** the Son will not see life,

but **the wrath of God abides on him.**

You are not believing in Jesus
as the Christ, your Lord and master,
if you are not listening to Him
and striving to give to Him your
full faith and allegiance.

Conclusion

Jesus *is* kind and tender and has demonstrated amazing grace in that He died to save sinners.

But His kindness is designed to lead us to repentance, not to contempt!

Receive the whole Christ!