



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 1:6-13
From Sermon 1.22.23

Read *John 1:6-13*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As our mock courtroom reconvenes, John continues with his opening statement—the very claims that put Jesus on trial at the end of His earthly ministry & continue to demand a verdict today. More witnesses are called. As we have previously proclaimed, the biblical Jesus is the most polarizing person in history. His claim of deity also results in a universal indictment of all mankind for crimes against a holy God. He will either be their judge or their Savior.

1. As our key text begins, something changed in history: The eternal Word [in the beginning, was with God, was God] graciously came to earth in the form of man. In church language, we call this the Incarnation. See also *Philippians 2:6-8*

2. The real Jesus—the Great "I AM" allows for only two Absolute Options: Unbelief or Belief = there is no hung jury, middle ground, fence riding, neutral stance, third eternity.

3. To sidestep the absolutes (in their captive souls), what have both the world and much of the modern church done with Jesus? Redefine Him. Fashion Him into a teacher, martyr, savior of their liking—not address sin. Remove His holiness to remove all of their guilt and shame.

4. Name the three sources/factors of Unbelief.

- Satan/the enemy blinds them

[can we fully blame the devil, as some do? No. just one of three factors]

- They are spiritually dead
- They love their sin and do not want to be exposed. See *John 5:5-6*.

[Discuss: "Do you want to be well?" Many say no—not at the price Jesus requires. See *Matthew 16:24*]

5. What is the single source of belief? Who does all the work? God.

The Churchie term is "monergistic". See also *Ephesians 2:8*

6. At the heart of Reformed Theology is the doctrine that Regeneration precedes Faith. *John 6:44*

7. When we buy into a doctrine of lost man possessing an unencumbered free will, inevitably what tactics will we employ to try to save them? Various answers. Emotion, fear, knowledge, sales tactics, promises...

7a. What is always the three exclusive and required components of salvation? Election, the Spirit, & the Gospel.

7b. In our evangelist efforts, what's the only one we play a part in? Preaching and living the Gospel.
See *John 4:24 & Romans 1:16*