



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 14:7-14
From Sermon 10.27.24

Read *John 14:7-14*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Jesus continues His discourse of final words and instructions to the Apostles. He will be gone soon (death the next day and ascension 40 days later), and they would be left to start this new living organism called the Church. They will need assurance on their dark days. They will need power to be effective. Jesus is promising them they will never be alone and have all the resources of heaven at their disposal. The very same Jesus has elected, saved, called, and commissioned us.

1. Last week, we studied Jesus' exclusivity proclamation: "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." This week's text continued that theme with "I AM in the Father and the Father is in Me." What divisive truth is Jesus highlighting about belief systems and religion? There are only two belief systems or religions in all the world and in all of history...

- 1) Jesus Christ is God—Yahweh—100%—as revealed in Scripture. The One and only Way.
- 2) Everything else. Making Jesus anything else or anything less

2. Review Philip's misguided request to see the Father. The human, carnal need to see more. To have an experience. Not content to live in what had been revealed to him. Remember the Pharisees ask Jesus for more—for more signs and wonders. Volume of evidence is never the issue. Ironically, Philip (man) doesn't even know how terrifying it would be to see God in our natural, sinful, unglorified state.

See also *Isaiah 6:1-5*

3. Relate that, now, to the Modern church with its focus on the attendee. Their view = There must be more than teaching, preaching, & doctrine. Give them emotions, experience, & inspiration. The Cults: Add more books. More than just this ancient Bible. Syncretism: More options. The blending of Christian doctrine and other religions. A view that all religions are equally valid & useful.

4. Jesus is telling Philip (and the Apostles and us) He is *the* visible form of God. Now, what is the difference between a Theophany and Christophany? A Theophany is believed to be a physical appearance of God the Father in the Old Testament. A Christophany is a physical appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament.

4a. And what is our position on the doctrine(s). We do not believe in or teach Theophanies. Instead, every physical manifestation of God in history was Jesus in some form. John 1:18 & 8:58, & 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

5. Jesus lands on the topic of prayer and petition. In this intimate, saving relationship, how do we converse with God? He speaks to us through His Word. We speak back to Him through prayer and worship.

5a. Discuss the use of "...in Jesus' Name..." = not some secret formula. Doesn't guarantee our desired outcome of the prayer. Likewise, neglecting to include it doesn't disqualify our petition. The words are not for God, but for us. A reminder that we are "in Him" and our needs rely on everything His Name conveys—His nature, His work, & His will. 1 John 5:14-15