

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Jesus the Unique Son of God

John's Purpose for Writing

- “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, **the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (20:30-31)
- What is the significance of the title “Son of God?”
- Aren't Christians called sons of God?

Jesus' Mission on Earth

- There is strong emphasis in John's gospel on Jesus as the one who reveals his father
- “Then Moses said, ‘Now show me your glory.’ ¹⁹ And the LORD said, ‘I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But,’ he said, ‘you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live’” (Ex 33:18-20)

Jesus' Mission on Earth

- Jesus is the Word (*logos*) of God (Jn 1:1)
- “The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (1:14)
- “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known” (1:18)
- “Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?’” (14:9)

Jesus, the Son of God

- Jesus' title as the "Son of God" is metaphoric language
- The root of this metaphorical use lies in the way sons obtained their identity in the culture of ancient Palestine
- In the Western world today, only about 5% of sons end up doing the same work their fathers did
- In the ancient world, the overwhelming majority of sons took up the same vocation as that of their fathers
- Jesus was called "the carpenter's son" (Matt 13:55)
- Thus, the relationship between members of the Triune Godhead as worded by John is rooted in the OT and the ancient world

Jesus is the Unique Son of God

- Jesus as the Son of God is supported in several ways:
- He is the eternal, pre-existent Word who became flesh (1:1, 14)
- His “Sonship” is validated by ten selected signs or miracles
- John calls upon witnesses in support of Jesus’ claims, including John the Baptist, and the disciples who witnessed Jesus’ miracles
- John also includes Jesus’ seven “I AM” sayings
- Jesus is functionally submissive to the Father and does only those things the Father gives him to do (5:19-23)

Jesus is the Unique Son of God

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (1:1)
- This Word existed “In the beginning” —that is, from the very beginning before which there is no further beginning
- John writes, “the Word was with God” —God’s own fellow “and the Word was God” —God’s own self (v. 1)
- The Word is the Creator of all things. John says, “Through him all things were made” (v. 3)
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only (only begotten) Son” (3:16)

Ten Signs or Miracles in John's Gospel

SIGN	VERSES
Changing water into wine	2:1-11
Jesus clearing the temple	2:12-23
Nicodemus the Rabbi	3:1-21
Healing an official's son	4:43-54
Healing a paralyzed man on the Sabbath	5:1-15
Feeding the 5,000 on the Passover	6:1-59
Feast of Tabernacles	7-10
Feast of Dedication	10:22-42
Raising of Lazarus from the dead	11:1-44
Jesus' resurrection	20:1-31

Jesus' Seven "I Am" Sayings

- I am the bread of life—sustaining spiritual life (6:35, 48)
- I am the light of the world—offering spiritual guidance (8:12)
- I am the gate—offering spiritual protection (10:7, 9)
- I am the good shepherd—offering spiritual care (10:11, 14)
- I am the resurrection and the life—overcoming death (11:25)
- I am the way and truth and the life—the source of truth (14:6)
- I am the true vine—enabling us to bear fruit (15:1, 5)
- “God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you” (Ex 3:14)

The Unique Son is One with the Father

- As the unique Son of God, Jesus claims functional subordination to the Father. The Father-Son relationship is not reciprocal. Scripture never says that the Father does only what he sees the Son doing. Though they have distinct roles, they do not work independently—“Whatever the Father does the Son also does” (5:19)
- The Father loves the Son and reveals everything to him (5:20; cf. 13:35)
- Life-giving is the work of God: “Just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it” (5:21)
- The Father entrusts the work of judgment to the Son (5:22)

The Unique Son is One with the Father

- Believers are also called sons of God: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (Matt 5:9)
- NT writers find diverse ways to distinguish Jesus’ sonship from ours
- For example, in Paul’s letters, believers become son’s or children of God by “adoption.” The same is never said of Jesus

Disciples Continuing Jesus' Mission

- Jesus' dependent and obedient relationship to his sender, the Father, is the paradigm for the disciples' relationship with our sender, Jesus
- Just as Jesus came to reveal God, believers reveal Christ to others
- “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this **all men will know that you are my disciples**, if you love one another” (13:34-35)
- “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit” (15:5). “This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, **showing yourselves to be my disciples**” (15:8)
- “I pray... that all them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the **world may believe that you have sent me**” (17:21-22)

Application Pointers

- How can believers at ORPC be more loving toward one another?
- How can believers at ORPC be more fruitful?
- How can believers at ORPC be more unified?