

The Identity of Christ

John 19:7-9

Joh 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Joh 19:8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

Joh 19:9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

The issue here is the Identity. Who is Jesus?

Outline -

1 - His Identity Raised

2 - His Identity Feared

3 - His Identity Sought

1 - His Identity Raised

Joh 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

There are three parts to this.

The Law, The Sentence of the Law and the accusation.

(1) The Law itself (a Blasphemy law.)

Read Leviticus 24:10-16

(2) The Sentence of the law - Death by stoning. (verses 14-16)

But they were bringing Jesus to Pilate for crucifixion.

See **John 19:29-30**

Note - They were not carrying out the sentence of the law

Also - They wanted him more than dead - they wanted him cursed.

Deu 21:22 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

Deu 21:23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

(3) The Accusation - because he made himself the Son of God.

Note - they say he made himself the Son of God. But many confessed him to be so!

Ten times in the gospel of John this appears.

1 - John the Baptist confessed him as the Son of God.

Joh_1:34 (KJV) And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

2 - Nathanael confessed him as the Son of God.

Joh_1:49 (KJV) Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

3 - The Apostle John confesses him as the Son of God

Joh_3:18 (KJV) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

4 - Jesus himself did confess that he was the Son of God.

Joh_5:25 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Joh_11:4 (KJV) When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

5 - The man born blind confessed him as the Son of God.

Joh 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

Joh 9:36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

Joh 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

Joh 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

6 - The Father confessed him to be the Son of God.

Joh_10:36 (KJV) Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

7 - Martha confessed him as the Son of God.

Joh_11:27 (KJV) She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

8 - The Jews were under no doubt regarding his claim.

Joh_19:7 (KJV) The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

9 - The Gospel of John was written that we might believe and confess the same!

Joh_20:31 (KJV) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2 - His Identity Feared

Joh 19:8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

Not the fear of the Lord - But dread (of a suspicious nature)

Compare - **Psalm 48:4-6**

3 - His Identity Sought

Joh 19:9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

The desperation of Pilate increases. Now he expands the question to “Whence art thou” - Where are you from?

A.W. Pink notes six questions that Pilate asked Christ

it is deeply interesting to follow his changing moods as he put them.

First, he had asked “Art thou the king of the Jews?” (John 18:33) — asked, most probably, in the spirit of sarcasm.

Second, “Am I a Jew?” (John 18:35) — asked in the spirit of haughty contempt.

Third, “What hast thou done?” (John 18:35) — a pompous display of his authority.

Fourth, “Art thou a king then?” (John 18:37) — indicating his growing perplexity.

Fifth, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) — asked out of contemptuous pity.

Sixth, “Whence art thou?” In what spirit did he ask this question? Much turns upon the right answer, for otherwise we shall be at a loss to understand our Lord’s refusal to reply.

The answer comes from the previous verse - **Joh 19:8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;** This was a question out of fear!

Note - The unsaved live in the dread of God. But consider our closing scripture -

1Jn 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

The Lord bless his word to our souls. Amen.