

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:6-8** Chapter 26- Understanding and Valuing the Doctrine of the Trinity 243 Our Triune God Part 15

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WAOY Friday- Monday 08/29- 09/01/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John taught about "The Doctrine of the Trinity". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 5:6-8** again together:

**6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.**

**7 For there are three that testify:**

**8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.**

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over just how important it is for the Church to know and to rightly preach Who Jesus is. For almost five chapters- the Apostle John has been teaching us that there are four things that are essential to being a Christian:

1. Love of God and for God
2. Keeping God's Commandments
3. Loving the Brethren
4. A Correct Understanding of Who Jesus is

And on the last broadcast- we were going over a time in Church History when the Christian Faith almost lost its understanding of Who Jesus is. This time is called the Arian Controversy of the fourth century and it involves a battle within the Church over the Deity of Jesus Christ.

And I have been trying to show you over the last several broadcasts how that putting Sound Doctrine on the back burner got the Church in real hot water in the fourth century. The effort by the Church to try to

escape their responsibility to guard the Truth resulted in the Arian heresy becoming so big that it nearly destroyed the Church.

Now the lesson here, if we will learn this lesson, is that when heresy enters into the Church- and periodically it will- we must deal with it Scripturally and head on or else it will grow to become a huge issue.

Now we must be very careful that we do not do great damage to the revealed Truth of God, dear friends, by either minimizing or marginalizing the exactness of Scripture when it comes to Doctrine- *especially* about the Doctrines of Grace and of Jesus Christ and of the Sovereignty of God.

Now the Council of Nicaea met in the city of Nicaea in what is modern day Turkey on June 19, 325. 300 bishops from around the world gathered to hear and see and comprehend exactly what the Bible taught about the Deity of Christ.

Arius, the heretic was teaching that Christ was a created being and not God wrapped in human flesh. Arius said that Christ was neither Divine, nor was he truly human, but was a “mediator” between God and humans- something in between God and humans- a kind of demi-god, if you will. In fact, this is exactly how Arius spoke of Christ.

According to Arius, Christ was the firstborn of all creation- higher than any other angelic creature- God- like- but a creature made by the Creator nonetheless.

And as I said before- a lot off what Arius said about Christ’s humanity was true- he just didn’t bother to include the Scriptures that dealt with Christ’s Divinity in his argument. So even though Arius was speaking partial truth- he was grossly incomplete and that incompleteness gave people a false impression of Christ-and Arius knew that.

So the Church had to convene a Council to decide this issue. And after they finished- they issued a document that *summarized* the long and detailed discussions of what had gone on during the Council. And that summary was condensed down into what is called a “Creed”.

Now a Creed is a summary of a Confession and a Confession is the systematic doctrinal statement of the Church. So as the Church hammered out a Doctrinal statement- they summarized the Confession by producing a Creed.

And right in the middle of this particular Creed- was the part that dealt with the Deity of Jesus Christ. And here is what it says:

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The only-begotten Son of God,  
Begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Very God of very God;  
Begotten, not made,  
Being of one substance with the Father,  
By whom all things were made.  
Who, for us men for our salvation,  
Came down from heaven,  
And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
And was made man;  
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;  
And ascended into heaven,  
And sits on the right hand of the Father;  
And He shall come again, with glory,  
To judge the quick and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

This Creed became known as the Nicene Creed and is still used today by many believers and churches as a summary about the dual nature of Jesus Christ. It uses the Greek word, *homoousia* when it says that Jesus was of one or the same substance with the Father- affirming what the Bible says about Christ's Divinity.

Now we have to realize, dear friends that the issue of Who Jesus is has been the single most controversial subject that has ever or that will ever exist in the history of the world. And the reason why Who Jesus is has been so controversial is the unwillingness of so many people to simply believe all that the Bible reveals to be true about Jesus.

No one has ever or will ever be like Jesus- not only because of *what* He did- but also because of *Who* He is. And part of the reason why the Person of Jesus is so misunderstood even today- 2,000 years after

He died- is because to believe all that the Bible says about Jesus stretches our minds more than almost anything else.

And yet if we deny even the smallest Truth about Jesus that is revealed in the Bible- we radically change our understanding of Who Jesus is and make no mistake about this- when we do that- our eternal souls are then in jeopardy.

Many, many Scriptures describe Jesus being fully human. He was born; He got thirsty when He fasted; He got weak and tired; He wept; He grew; He even said this in **John 14:28**:

**... the Father is greater than I.**

And Jesus said this to the rich young ruler in **Mark 10:18**:

**Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.**

So those verses speak of Christ's humanity- because Jesus was 100% a man. And if we stopped right there and didn't read or know anything else- then what Arius taught 1600 years ago and what many unbiblical cults teach today- might make sense. But we have to remember, dear friends, that when we are speaking about Jesus- we are talking about the most unique Person in all of human history and if we are to get a full and accurate view- we must include all that the Bible says about Him and not just a few selected verses- usually taken out of context.

So while it is absolutely true that Jesus was 100% Man- it is also equally true that Jesus was 100% God. And so along with all of His very human attributes- Jesus also manifested attributes that can only come from God Himself.

So for example, Jesus walked on water; Jesus forgave sin; Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead; Jesus alone fulfilled almost 400 specific Old Testament prophecies and Jesus alone set the stage for who is and who is not saved. So there are many Bible verses which speak to the full Divinity of Jesus that must be included in any discussion of Who Jesus is.

For example- let's look at one of these in **John 1:47-49**:

**47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "**Behold, an Israelite**

**indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"**

**48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."**

**49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."**

Now I have no idea what Nathaniel was doing under the fig tree. But when Jesus told Nathaniel that He had seen him- Nathaniel knew that Jesus was God and Nathaniel gave Christ the adoration and the worship that is reserved only for God. And this is very significant.

You see, if Christ wasn't God- then Jesus would have been wrong to allow Nathaniel to worship Him. And if Jesus was not God- but was a created being as Arius taught- then He was not *entitled* to receive worship from anyone. And by falsely receiving worship and adoration from Nathaniel like this- Jesus would have been encouraging Nathaniel to commit idolatry- unless, of course- Jesus was God.

But Jesus *did* receive worship from Nathaniel- in fact- He *encouraged* it. And He did this- precisely because Jesus knew that it was correct for Nathaniel to worship Him because Jesus is God. Now look at another passage found in **John 13:12-14:**

**12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"**

**13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.**

**14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.**

Now the modern day followers of Arius will say that Jesus was only referring to Himself as being the Teacher or Leader of the disciples. But that interpretation ignores the actual Greek definition of the words that the Apostle John wrote here in this passage.

Jesus was saying exactly what it looks like here- that He was their God and their Master and He knew it and they knew it- which is *why* Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet- and because only God deserves worship- Jesus said in verse 13:

**You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am**

Again in **Matthew 2:11**- the Bible tells us that the three kings, who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh went into the house where the young Jesus was and fell down and worshipped Him. Now Jesus might have been as old as two or three years of age and perhaps He was too young to do anything about this- but both Mary and Joseph were grown. So if Jesus was *not* God- then both Mary and Joseph and perhaps even the young Jesus would have been guilty of promoting and allowing idolatry by receiving worship from these three kings. And if the three kings were committing idolatry by worshipping at Jesus' Feet- their testimony would not have been included in the Scriptures as being something noble and worthy of emulation.

But if both Mary and Joseph knew that their son was God in human form- then they would have been correct to allow the three kings to worship the infant Jesus.

You see, dear friends, only God is entitled to worship. It is idolatry to worship anyone or anything except God. Conversely- it is also wrong *not* to worship the one true living God. So there really isn't any wiggle room here.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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