

## **John 1:1-3 The Eternal WORD Defines Life**

**Because life began with God through the eternal WORD, life is defined by Him.**

### **1) Life began with God through the eternal WORD.**

- a) "In the beginning"—beginning of "all things"/universe (1:3)
  - i) The universe is not eternal.
  - ii) The universe is contingent or dependent for its existence.
  - iii) The universe is not ultimate reality.
  - iv) Pantheism is not an adequate explanation of God or life.
  - v) Panentheism is not an adequate explanation of God or life.
- b) John 1:1a "In the beginning was the WORD" alludes to Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning God" stating the WORD's divine identity.
  - i) Not "in the beginning of the WORD," but "in the beginning was the WORD," indicating preexistence and eternity of the WORD.
  - ii) John 1:1c "and the WORD was God" shows that the WORD is not merely identified with God as a companion or associate, but is the being and nature of God.
- c) John moves from the Preexistence of the WORD to the created existence of all things to the existence of humanity in particular (1:4, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.").

### **2) Life is defined by the WORD.**

- a) Life is grounded in an eternal, divine relationship (1:1-2).
  - i) John 1:1b "and the WORD was with God" indicates close, personal relationship.
  - ii) The relationship between God the Father and God the Son/WORD is one of perfect love and glory (John 3:35; 5:20; 10:17; 15:9, 10; 17:5, 23-26).
  - iii) Alienation from this relationship means alienation from true love, true glory, and true life.
  - iv) Reconciliation to this relationship means the enjoyment of true love (John 17:23, 26), true glory (17:10, 22, 24), and true life (John 17:2-3, 13).
- b) Life is united to all things by the eternal, divine WORD (1:3).
  - i) "All things were created through Him" is a summary of Genesis 1—"And God said . . ."
  - ii) The negative complement "without Him was not anything made that was made" rules out any competing ultimate reality.
  - iii) Personal chaos ensues when we reject the rule of the WORD.
  - iv) Peace comes from the whole of life being ordered under the rule of the WORD (John 10:10).

**Doxology: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:14**