

The Face of God

John 10.22-38

As we SNORE thru the APOSTLE'S CREED we come to the Second Stanza
 Creed – 108 Words: 12 refer to FATHER, 6 to Holy SPIRIT, 69 about JESUS

Could say it in OUR SLEEP.... "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker
 of Heaven and Earth, *and in Jesus Christ...* WHAT! What's HE DOING here?

To us CREED may be BORING > First Audience it was BLASPHEMOUS
 Words may put us to SLEEP > Words were SHOCKING to First Hearers
 Read John 10.22-38

1. Claim

2. Confirmation

3. Comfort

1. The Claim

Season of Expectancy: v. 22 Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem.

FEAST > More than ref. of LOCAL COLOR > John Marks 3 Yrs of Ministry
 167 BC SYRIAN Emp Antiochus EPIPHANES Standardize Relig in Empire
 Set up ALTAR to ZEUS in TEMPLE of GOD in JERUSALEM

Judas MACCABAEUS: 'Judas the HAMMER' REVOLT agnst Syrians
 164 BC Temple Cleansed Rededicated > 8 Day Celeb: Joyous, Victory,
 Restores TRUE WORSHIP of Yahweh – Celebration known as **Hanukkah**

POLITICAL / RELIG Celebration > JEWS Stand Up to Foreign INVADERS
 Jesus Day > Many JEWS Eager to OVERTHROW ROMAN Conquerors
 Waiting for MESSIAH to Lead CHARGE of Victorious ARMIES of Israel

Situation of Antagonism v. 24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How
 long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

v. 24 '**How long will you ANNOY us?**' Ask for enough Rope to HANG Him

JESUS – Greek form of Hebrew name ‘Joshua’ or ‘Yeshua’ > Common 1st C
 Meaning: GOD IS SAVIOR – Yahweh is Salvation – Jesus = SAVIOR

CHRIST – NOT LAST NAME: Greek TITLE ‘*anointed one*’ / Heb. Messiah

JESUS NEVER makes PUBLIC PROCLAMATION that He is the MESSIAH
 Widespread Misunderstanding: ROLE, PURPOSE, & MINISTRY of Messiah

Yet this CLAIM of Jesus could NOT BE MORE BOLD! > I am GOD!

v. 30 “I and the Father are one.”

Every one of His Jewish HEARERS > Heard the ECHO of the ‘SHEMA’
 Over 1000 Years FAITHFULLY CONFESSING God’s Word thru MOSES

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, *the LORD is one.* Deuteronomy 6:4

NOW this Guy DARES to INCLUDE HIMSELF in the ONENESS!
 HARD to UNDERSTAND > Begin with what HE DOES NOT MEAN -

a. Not Monism (One Person, One God)

‘ONE’ – Neuter, not Masculine = NOT ONE PERSON – ie. DISTINCTION

v. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all

v. 36 the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world

ONE GOD > 2 Distinct PERSONS (here) > later Understand 3 PERSONS

b. Not Polytheism (More than One God)

NOT TWO or THREE gods > Christians believe in ONE GOD

For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 8:6

UNDERSTAND it's DIFFICULT: But ETERNALLY IMPORTANT > God!
Cannot Understand FULLY but must Try to UNDERSTAND as BEST ABLE

After AUGUSTINE'S extensive writings on Biblical teaching of Trinity:
"We use these terms, not that we may express it, but that it may not remain altogether unexpressed" Augustine of Hippo

ONE God but DISTINCT in PERSONS > a TRI-UNITY – Father, Son, Spirit

c. One in Purpose, but not One Person

v. 25 The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me

v. 29 My Father, who has given them (*my sheep*) to me

v. 30 I and the Father are one. v. 37 I do what my Father does.

PERFECTLY ONE in ACTION > What Father Does, Son Does, Vice Versa

"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" John 4:34

"I seek not to please myself but him who sent me." John 5:30

d. One in Divine Nature and Essence

DIFFERENT VIEWS among BELIEVERS in JESUS > **Anti-Apostle's Creed**
DENIERS of Jesus DEITY > Arians, J.W.'s, Mormons, Muslims

PRAYER of Jesus > PROVES THEIR POINT --- so they say...

...that they may be one as we are one John 17:22

i.e. IF Jesus is GOD > THEN Believers are GOD TOO!

Believers & God: DISTINCT, SEPERATE, and INCOMPRABLE
Jesus and FATHER GOD > Same MISSION, NOT the Same NATURE

I am ONE with Peyton in this Work at ICF > but NOT SAME in ESSENCE

“...that they may be one as we are one” Comparison is NOT RECIPROCAL UNITY of Father & Son is REALITY > Believers called to REFLECT Them

IMPORTANT KEY to Understanding BIBLE > CONTEXT of Passage

What HAPPENS when Jesus says “I and the Father are ONE” in Verse 30??

v. 31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him

SAYS MORE of SAME > v. 39 Again they tried to seize him

Everything we BELIEVE of God the Father ASCRIBED to Jesus
Believe in ONE GOD > Revealed as FATHER, SON, SPIRIT

Fully Understood by JESUS HEARERS > Death Penalty: Blasphemy

v. 33 "We are...stoning you...for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Jesus is calling the Jews to a revision of their understanding of God. Their radical and uncompromising monotheism implied that any claim to deity represented, necessarily, a claim to rival God, as a second God. Hence the charge of blasphemy inevitably followed. By contrast, Jesus presents them with a God who possesses an internal richness of being, a God able therefore to appear in person among them as ‘the Father’s Son’ without thereby abdicating or compromising his majestic Godhead. The God who had appeared on Sinai was now ‘God a second time’ in the one who confronted them as ‘the Son of the Father’. God was not an undifferentiated monad but a multi-person Trinity.

Bruce Milne

ENTIRE Context of GOSPEL of John > SUPPORTS same Conclusion

MANY TEACHERS > Must MARK ESSAYS > Test IDEAS, LOGIC
JOHN'S GOSPEL = ESSAY > One Main Question: WHO is JESUS?

FIRST WORDS: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh John 1.1,14

Some Essays > READER CONFUSED > What are they talking about???
John CLEAR, Even CONFRONTS: JESUS is GOD in Human FLESH

NOT Typical Biog. > NO Physical Descriptions, Looks, Hair, Eyes, Weight
ONLY ULTIMATE Importance > GOD who became Man to SAVE Man

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I,
too, am working." For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him...he
was even calling God his own Father, *making himself equal with God.* John 5:17-18

v. 30 "I and the Father are one." > 6 Words that ROCKED their WORLD

20 Chapters > SIGNS and SERMONS > Develop and Defend THESIS
Concl Words of SKEPTIC: v. 28 Thomas (to Jesus): "My Lord and my God!"

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" John 14:9

SHOCKING CLAIM > TAKE BREATH AWAY! > Jesus is Face of God
OVER 1000 years of SHEMA 'God is ONE' > Now HE is INCLUDED!

No other person in the stream of Jewish monotheism could meaningfully
make such a claim. D.A. Carson

When the creed called God maker of heaven and earth, it parted company with
Hinduism and Eastern faiths in general. Now by calling Jesus God's only Son,
it parts company with Judaism and Islam and stands quite alone. J.I. Packer

These Verses are BASIS of CLEAR and BOLD Conclusion at NICEA -

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Nicene Creed

2. The Confirmation

v. 24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "*How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.*"

How LONG...i.e. It is YOUR Fault we Don't Believe!

// God to ADAM in the CRIME SCENE of EDEN: What happened here?
ADAM > "WOMAN that YOU gave me MADE ME do IT!"

POLICE pull Driver over for SPEEDING: 'Sir, doing 120 k in 80 k zone'
Did you SEE 80k SIGN? 'Well, of course, WAY back there, NOT HERE!'
IF You want a person to KEEP it at 80 you need SIGNS RIGHT HERE!

JEWS to JESUS: Show us MORE SIGNS, MORE PROOF, MORE DOUBT!
JOHN > Gospel of SIGNS – 7 – Walking on Water, Bread, Wine, Lazarus!

FINAL VERSE of John's Gospel: Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:25

JESUS NEVER makes PUBLIC PROCLAMATION that He is the MESSIAH
Jesus NOT AMERICAN > Say EVERYTHING, TOO MUCH, Wrong TIME

DOES Teach 'He is MESSIAH to INDIVIDUALS'

The woman (*in Samaria*) said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." John 4:25-26

Crowds IGNORED Works > MORE Truth = Throw PEARLS before SWINE

v. 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe."

Words and Works point in ONE DIRECTION > TWIN WITNESSES

a. His Words :tries to turn from Rash EMOTION to Reasoning INTELLECT

vs. 34-36 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came - and the Scripture cannot be broken - what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"

PT: Look Carefully at SCRIPTURE to Understand Him, Do Not Just React

'gods' PSALM 82 – Asked to preach this at Biggest Supporting Church
 Role of JUDGES of ISRAEL > Interpret & Apply LAW
 MINISTERS of LAW of GOD = gods, SPOKESMEN of God of TRUTH

IF THEY be called 'gods' > HOW MUCH MORE this Word of God in Flesh?
Jesus REVEALED the Word and the Word RESIDES in Him

v. 35 the Scripture cannot be broken

Meaning: 'This passage of Scripture cannot be set aside as irrelevant to the matter under discussion.'

Major Premise: Scripture cannot be broken

Minor Premise: Scripture calls men who administer God's Word 'gods'

Conclusion: Calling Jesus 'Son of God' is not blasphemy

Cannot OVER-Emphasize IMPORTANCE of KNOWING SCRIPTURE

For this salvation of ours is by faith...by proof from the sacred Scriptures.

Cyril of Jerusalem, 4th Century

I have learned to hold the Scriptures alone inerrant...Do not follow my writings as Holy Scripture. When you find in Holy Scripture anything that you did not believe before, believe it without doubt; but in my writings you should hold nothing for certain. Augustine of Hippo to Jerome, 4th Century

I beg and faithfully warn every pious Christian not to stumble at the simplicity of the language and stories of Scripture...however simple they may seem, these are the very words, judgments, and deeds of the high majesty, power, and wisdom of God...The Scriptures although they were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God. Martin Luther

This is the principle that distinguishes our religion from all others - we know that God has spoken to us and are fully convinced that the prophets did not speak of themselves, but as organs of the Holy Spirit...We owe the Scriptures the same reverence as we owe to God. John Calvin

The Scripture is a rule sufficient in itself, and was by men who were divinely inspired and at once delivered to the world. John Wesley

CATHOLIC – LUTHERAN – CALVINIST – WESLEYAN > ONE VOICE

‘Scriptures CANNOT be BROKEN’ > Cannot be EMPTIED of its FORCE

b. His Works > Mighty ACTS with a MIGHTY MESSAGE

v. 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me

JEWS ‘What have YOU been DOING JESUS?’ > Much to SEE!

Lepers Healed – Crowds Fed – Disciples Taught – Blind See – Dead Raised

vs. 37,38 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Sheer WEIGHT of EVIDENCE is PLAIN to See > CRUSHES all Objections

His words interpret His deeds and His deeds corroborate His words. R.V.G. Tasker

Jesus DEITY – PROVEN by the Very WORD and WORKS of GOD

WHO Received this WEIGHTY PROOF > CRYSTAL-CLEAR Evidences?

AUDIENCE – Striking – NOT IMPARTIAL, IGNORANT, UNINFORMED
CREAM of Israelite Society – MOST Learned, Educated, Respected in Israel
PHARISEES > BLINDED and CONFINED within a NARROW LEGALISM

WHY Reject Jesus? v. 26 you do not believe because you are not my sheep

That they are not Jesus' sheep does not excuse them; it indicts them. D.A. Carson

From the human standpoint, we become His sheep by believing; but from the
divine standpoint, we believe because we are His sheep. Warren Wiersbe

How striking and how disturbing it is that the amazing truths about Jesus set
before us in the gospel can thrill the hearts of many, yet leave others, because
they are blind to who he is, completely unaffected. Mark Johnston

Hear SAME MESSAGE / NOT SAME MEANING / LIFE IMPACT
SITTING IN PEW NEXT TO SOMEONE / EVEN RELATIVE
TOTALLY DIFFERENT REACTION / SPIRITUAL CONDITION

Man Credited w/ Ending England's Part in Slave Trade: Wm. Wilberforce
Career Parliamentarian > Devoted Christian > Pastor was Richard Cecil
Wilberforce great FRIEND > William Pitt, PM of England, not Believer
Wilberforce often invited Pitt to Church and hear great messages of Cecil
Pitt always TOO BUSY > Finally one Sunday Pitt went to church w/ W.
Pastor Cecil > Eloquent, Powerful, Christ-exalting > Wilberforce was Thrilled
PITT > as they walked home: "Wilberforce, I do not have the slightest idea
what that man was talking about"

3. The Comfort

WORLD TODAY > ‘Yes, Jesus was GOOD MAN but he was NOT GOD!’
 ‘we can accept what he DID – just NOT what he SAYS!!’
 ‘we want God – but we do not need Jesus!’

If Jesus is simply like us, or if he is merely a powerful prophet of the past, why should he have any particular importance or claim on us? ... Why should Jesus matter more than Socrates or Confucius or the Buddha, or any of the great sages of the world? If God is not in Christ, devoting one’s life to Christ is truly arbitrary.
 Luke Timothy Johnson

Jesus is GOD > Not ABSTRACT DOCTRINE > Life Changing Blessing
 GOD HIMSELF – My Redeemer, My Forgiveness, My Joy, My Life

a. Summoned

v. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Friend Stewart in Hawaii “NOBODY ever CALLS Me!” > Jesus DOES!

Even MORE EXTRAORDINARY when read PREVIOUS WORDS
 v. 26 SOBERING WORDS to CRITICS > YOU are NOT My SHEEP

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. *Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts* Psalm 95:6-8

VERY POSSIBLE to HEAR this SERMON > and NOT HEAR Jesus CALL
 NO ROOM in HEART for ANYONE but YOU – SOME OTHER IDOL
 Without REPENTANCE & FAITH: Words NOT COMFORT but CURSING

NEW RELATIONSHIP: ‘I know them’
 NEW RESPONSIBILITY ‘they follow me’

If Jesus Christ is God, and He died for me, then no sacrifice I can make can be too great for Him. C.T. Studd

b. Saved

v. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 'they shall never perish' > GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE

No Longer Part of PASSING WORLD > PERMANENT HOME in the LORD
ETERNAL Life > Cannot be CONDITIONAL, It is FOREVER and EVER!

JESUS relation to Sheep: LOVING, LIVING, and LASTING

Already PROMISED -

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

DANGEROUS PROMISE? Will be ABUSED! People SIN CARELESSLY!

What HOUSE would you rather LIVE IN?

Father > If DO SOMETHING BAD – I will THROW YOU Out FOREVER!

Father: No Matter WHAT You Do, Nothing will make Me Stop Loving You!

God is GOOD FATHER > "I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE!" Never Perish!

If that DOES NOT Make you WANT to LOVE & OBEY > Not True Child!

c. Secured

vs. 29,30 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

DOUBLE-GRIP of God > CLUTCHED by Father & Son > INSEPERABLE

The ultimate security of Jesus' sheep rests with the good shepherd...Who then can steal from God? Who has strength or subtlety sufficient to overpower or outwit the sovereign Father?
D.A. Carson

Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

This DOCTRINE prompted CHARLES SPURGEON to BELIEVE in Christ
Just 15 years old > Spiritually Concerned > Wanted to Follow, Many Failed

Whatever good resolutions I might make, the probabilities are that they will be good for nothing when temptation assails me. I will be like those of whom it has been said, 'They see the devil's hook and yet cannot help nibbling at his bait.' I will disgrace myself....

...If I go to Jesus and get from him a new heart and a right spirit, I shall be secured against these temptations into which others have fallen. I shall be preserved by Him.
Charles Spurgeon

PYRAMID of RELIGION in Astana > Told it is Architecturally Magnificent
Massive – Many ENTRANCE Doors > Like a SIGN = All WAYS to GOD
ONE EXIT DOOR > LEAVE our Prejudices, Doctrines, Differences
GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TOGETHER > One Faith, One God, All Same

May be Architecturally Magnificent > Spiritually MONSTROUS
DESIGN from PIT of HELL

MANY Doors to RELIGION / ONE Door to REDEMPTION,
RELATIONSHIP with Living God as Father, Son, and Spirit, to HEAVEN

ONE DOOR In > Many DOORS OUT > To ALL EARTH w/ Great News!

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
Matthew 11:27

John 10:22-39

22 Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? 35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came-and the Scripture cannot be broken- 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. 38 But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."