

Sermon Outline

Mark takes us back to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Luke takes us back to the months before Jesus' birth. Matthew takes us back to Abraham. John takes us back to before the beginning of everything, in eternity past, before time began.

1. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word. (John 1:1–2)

*The Word is uncreated; He has eternally existed.

*The Word is distinguished from God yet has eternal been in relationship with God.

*The Word has eternally been God.

*The Word is God's personal, self-communication to us.

***Early church heresies concerning Christ's deity:

Ebionism: Jesus is not God but only a man used by God.

Monarchianism:

- Dynamic monarchianism/Adoptionism: Jesus a good man but not God; God adopted Jesus at baptism.

- Modalistic monarchianism: God reveals in modes; Father/Son/Spirit are not distinct Persons.

Arianism: Father created the Son; Son is not equal to God. (similar, not exact)

***John 1:1–2 prophetically denounced every heresy that the early church faced about Jesus' deity! Oh the power and clarity of the Word of God about the Word!

2. Jesus Christ is the Creator of everything. (John 1:3)

*All of creation came into being through Him.

*He is dependent upon nothing or no one, but all things and every person are dependent upon Him.

*1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15–17; Hebrews 1:3

3. Jesus Christ is source of spiritual life and light. (John 1:4–5)

*He has spiritual life in Himself. (John 5:26; 11:25; 14:6)

*To know Him is to have eternal life. (John 3:15-16; 6:40; 6:51-53; 17:3; 1 John 5:11–12)

*His life gives light by revealing and bearing witness to the truth.

*Because of who He is, Jesus is completely victorious!

*** "Christ says that He is 'humble and meek,' and we believe Him; not noticing that, if He were merely a man, humility and meekness are the very last characteristics we could attribute to some of His sayings. I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher." - C. S. Lewis

*** "Jesus is either a bad man, a mad man, or the God-man." - Alistair Begg

Small Group Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Bible passage and message?
What stood out to you?
2. What are the four big truths about Jesus in John 1:1? (Look at the sub points of main point #1 above.) What do we learn about him in relation to eternity and God? What does it mean that Jesus is the “Word?”
3. Why are these truths fundamental and essential to Christianity? How did John 1:1–2 prophetically denounce the heresies concerning Jesus’ deity in the early church? What are some modern expressions of these heresies? (Arianism: Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness; Modalism: Oneness Pentecostalism, “Jesus’ Name Only”; Ebionism: theological liberalism, “historical Jesus”)
4. Discuss the significance of the Word creating all things. What are some practical helps and implications for us in knowing that God created everything through Jesus and for him?
5. How is Jesus the source of spiritual life and light? Read the C. S. Lewis quote above and discuss how no one ultimately can be neutral toward Jesus.