

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of John tells us in many places that Jesus Christ is God. John 1:1 says that “The Word was God” and John 5:18 says, “[Jesus] was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” John 8:58 says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am” and John 10:30 says “I and the Father are one.” In fact, this last verse might one of the most blatant references to Jesus’ divinity in the book making it worthy of our consideration this morning as we look at “4 Ways that Jesus Asserts His Deity in this Passage.”

1). By Confronting the Jews at the Feast of Dedication (verses 22-25).

Verses 22-25 says, *“At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, ‘How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe.’”*

Discussion Question A: Describe the Feast of Dedication in your own words and explain how Jesus used this Feast in order to highlight His deity.

Discussion Question B: Why did Jesus tell the Jews “I told you, and you do not believe?” What had He been telling them and why were they so resistant to hear it?

2). By Claiming to be a Shepherd (verses 26-28).

Verses 26-28 says, *“But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”*

Discussion Question A: Why does Jesus call His followers “sheep” here and how does that relate to the previous verses? See John 10:1-18.

Discussion Question B: How did this passage highlight Jesus’ deity? (Hint: Can anyone but God give eternal life to us?)

3). By Claiming that “I and the Father are One” (verses 29-33).

Verses 29-33 says, “*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.*’ The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘*I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?*’ The Jews answered Him, ‘*For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.*’”

Discussion Question A: What did Jesus mean when He said that “I and the Father are one?” How is this a direct reference to the trinity and why did it lead the Jews to attempt to stone Him?

Discussion Question B: Did the Jews have the right to try to stone Jesus in this manner? What were they supposed to do before stoning someone?

4). By Quoting from the Pages of Scripture (verses 33-42).

Verses 34-39 says, “*Jesus answered them, ‘Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.’ Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.*”

Discussion Question A: What is the significance of this quotation from Psalm 82:6? Who are “the gods” that are being described here in relation to Jesus?

Discussion Question B: Was this statement well received by the Jews? Why / Why not? Where did Jesus go afterwards in response to their hostility and why is that so unusual? See verses 40-42.