

The Explanation of God (John 1:1-18)

Verses to Remember: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him” (John 1:18).

Notes and Scripture references:

- One of the most important questions of the book of John is “Who is Jesus?”
- The gospel of John makes immediately clear that Jesus is God. He was with God (the Father) in the beginning and he is God from the beginning. That all things were created through him again makes clear that Jesus is God (see Isaiah 44:24 which states that God created alone).
- This brings to the forefront the doctrine of the Trinity. Here is a “simple” explanation of the Trinity: 1. God is one in essence. (There are not three gods). 2. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternally and simultaneously distinct persons. 3. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each fully divine. (Each person of the Trinity can be called God).
- Jesus, who is God, added humanity to his deity. He came to earth and pitched his tent (or *tabernacled*) among us (John 1:14).
- Since Jesus is God (the Trinity) and he became human (the incarnation), then we can see God in a physical face-to-face way like never before.
- And so, answering the question “who is Jesus?” (He is God) does something stunning and amazing for us. It helps us answer the question of “Who is God?” God can be seen more clearly than ever before in the person of Jesus. Jesus can explain God the Father to us (John 1:18 cf. 5:19; 8:28; 10:30; 12:49; 14:7; 14:10).
- Jesus himself is a message (*‘logos’*; John 1:1) from God. Jesus sheds light on all who are in the world (John 1:9).
- In a new and special way, Jesus is “exegeting” God. He is revealing who God is in a way that is easier for us to understand because he is in our flesh. (cf. Heb 1:1-2).
- Jesus shows us the grace and truth of God (cf. John 1:14).

Three assignments as we go through the book of John:

1. Read it alongside someone in this church, or at least a fellow believer.

- Discuss it together and make notes of questions you have.

2. Invite a non-believer or non-churchgoer to read the gospel of John with you.

- Ask them if they are willing to explore the question of “Who is Jesus?”

3. Seek to know God better, and better understand the depths of eternal life.

- And know that eternal life has implications for eternity and also for today. John 20:30-31 says “...these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”