

FOUNDATIONS: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS (3)

Jesus Christ: Savior, Lord, and Friend of Sinners

John 1:1–14

Introduction: Church, today we come to another message in our July doctrine series, *Foundations: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters*. And today we are standing on holy ground. We are not merely asking, “What did Jesus do?” We are asking, “*Who is Jesus Christ?*”

Because if you get Jesus wrong, you get Christianity wrong.

John knew...

Christ's identity reveals the heart of Christian love.

I. The Word is preexistent: (John 1:1–2)

A. His existence John 1:1

- Christ existed before creation.
- Bethlehem was His arrival—not His beginning.

Before time started ticking, Christ already was.

B. His enclosure - "The Word was with God."

- Jesus is distinct from the Father, yet perfectly in fellowship with Him.

C. His equality - "The Word was not *like* God."

- Jesus is fully God. (This is the foundation of the Christian faith) (Mic. 5:2; Jn 8:58; Col 1:17; Heb 1:3)

Adrian Rogers: “A word is the expression of a thought. If you want to know what is in a person’s mind, listen to his words. *That is exactly why John calls Jesus “the Word.”*”

D. His expression - Jesus is God's perfect self-expression.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

E. His exaltation - Because of who He is, He must be worshiped as Lord! (Jn 14:15)

- Love begins with lordship.

You will never love people rightly until you worship Jesus rightly.

II. The Word is powerful: (John 1:3–5)

A. The creator – If it was made, Jesus made it. (Jn 1:3; Col 1:16)

B. The comprehensiveness - *Nothing exists apart from Christ.*

C. The continuity - "In Him was life." Christ is not only the creator of life, He is the source of life.

D. The contrast - Jesus is the Light of men.

- Light reveals, guides, exposes, and gives hope. (1 Jn 1:5; Lk 22:53; Jn 3:16–19)

E. The conquest - *Darkness cannot overcome the Light.*

Every person matters because every person was created by Christ and for Christ. (Js 3:9)

III. The Word is pursuing: (John 1:6–13)

A. The witness - John the Baptist sent by God, points people to Christ.

B. The world's rejection - Jn 1:10

C. His own people's refusal – (Jn 1:11; Isa 53:1) *(One of the saddest statements in the Bible is followed by one of the most hopeful!)*

D. The right to receive (Jn 1:12) *All who receive Christ become children of God.*

E. The Regeneration – (Jn 1:13; 2 Cor 4:3–6; Lk 1:78–79; Rom 5:8)

Weirsbe: new birth is not self-manufactured. It is the gracious work of God.

Christian love pursues the undeserving because Christ pursued us first.

IV. The Word is present: (John 1:14)

A. The Incarnation - "The Word became flesh." (Phil 2:5–9; Heb 2:14; Heb. 4:15)

B. The Indwelling - Christ "dwelt among us." (Like a tent, tabernacling among us...)

C. The Inspection - "We beheld His glory." His glory was visible in His life, His character, and His compassion.

D. The Integrity What kind of glory? (the kind full “*Full of grace and truth.*”

E. The Implication - Jesus is Savior, Lord, and Friend of sinners. (Eph 4:15, 32; 1 John 4:11)

Christ's identity reveals the heart of Christian love.

Doctrine to Remember

Jesus Christ is the eternal Word—fully God and fully man—who came into our darkness to reveal the Father, save sinners, and form a people whose love is shaped by His grace and truth.