



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1017 S. 2nd St. (Old Hwy. 367)
 Cabot, AR 72023
cabotwestsidechurchofchrist.com

When We Meet

Sunday
 Bible Classes – 9:00 am
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm
Wednesday
 Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

The Nature of Jesus from John's Gospel

By Alex Hale

John's gospel is in many ways different from the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). John wrote his gospel much later than the other three gospel writers and included many things which they omitted. It was not John's goal to include every detail of the life of Christ, or even for that matter to provide a detailed summary. Rather, John writes with the express purpose to convict those who had not yet made up their minds about Jesus. In other words, though John does not tell his reader *everything*, his desire is to include enough evidence to convict someone (John 20:30-31).

In contrast to Matthew and Luke, John writes nothing about the birth and childhood of Jesus, but instead goes back to the beginning (John 1:1). This reveals the ***eternal nature of Jesus***. To readers familiar with the Old Testament, John 1:1 would have sounded a lot like Genesis 1:1. John's point is that before the world existed, Jesus existed. John also references Jesus as "*the Word*," saying that Jesus is the creative power behind the universe, and the force which holds all of life together (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17).

John shows us ***the deity of Jesus***. John is not trying to convince the reader that Jesus was merely a great teacher or wise man. There is more to it than that. John is declaring that Jesus was divine (John 1:1-4). This is a claim which Jesus also made of Himself (John 10:20; 14:9).

John also shows us ***the humanity of Jesus***. John writes that the Word "*became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:14). In his use of the term "flesh," John is saying that Jesus experienced humanity in its fullest. He was born as a baby. He grew up to be a man (Luke 2:52). He knew the feelings of hunger, pain, temptation, anger, and grief (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus was (and is) the Word, and Jesus came and dwelt among men. Because of this, John writes that we have access to grace and truth (John 1:16-17). This is what ultimately gives us the hope of salvation (John 1:12). Just like the original readers of John's gospel, we are faced with a decision. The identity of Jesus continues to be a topic of discussion. Some believe that He was a good man. Others think that He was an outstanding teacher. Some view Him as the wisest man who ever lived. Others think He was the world's greatest impostor. Regardless of the differing opinions, the fact remains that most people in the world have *some* opinion as to who Jesus of Nazareth really was – and really is. It is interesting to note that Jesus Himself asked His disciples this very question (Matthew 16:13-19; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20). As Homer Hailey once wrote, "Eternal life depends upon this faith; nothing else will do. Either Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God – all that He claimed to be – or He was and is an impostor. There is no middle ground."