

Why Jesus is the Perfect “Word” of God

John 1.1-2, 14, 18

The Bible isn't a theology textbook, but read it and you learn a lot about theology! The prologue to John's Gospel introduces us to Jesus as deity, but does so in a way that reveals Him as the perfect revelation of God to mankind – The Word!

- What does it mean that Jesus is “the Word”?
 - *“the word of the Lord” – God’s self-revelation*
 - *What we could never know, the Word reveals to us*
- Why is Jesus the perfect “Word” of God?
 - *He was “in the beginning”*
 - *He was “with God”*
 - *He was God! (Careful here...)*
 - *He “became flesh, and dwelt among us”*

1. John's Gospel begins with the words “In the beginning,” the same words which begin the book of Genesis. What does the “beginning” point to in Genesis? How is this different in John's Gospel? Why is this significant? What does this tell us about Jesus?
2. John's use of “the Word” (the Logos) to describe Jesus is important. Words communicate to others what is in our mind and heart. It is a means by which we reveal our thoughts and feelings to others. How does this reflect what Jesus did in coming to earth (see 1.18)?
3. The second and third phrases in John 1.1 may seem at first to be contradictory: How can the Word be “with God” and “be God” at the same time? What fundamental doctrine of Christianity do these two juxtaposed statements point to?
4. In the phrase “the Word was with God,” what Person of the Trinity do you think “God” refers to? (In the Greek, the word for “God” has a definite article, identifying Him specifically.) In the next phrase, however (“the Word was God”), the word “God” is anarthrous (it *does not* have a definite article). How does this help us understand how the Word could be “with” God, and also “be” God?
5. The meaning of the statement, “the Word was “with God” (vv 1-2) is significant. The Greek term for “with” (*pros, πρὸς*) means more than just being ‘near’ or ‘beside’ someone. The Greek word means “toward,” and describes an intimate union. While God is revealed to us in history (His-story) and nature (see Ps. 19.1-6 [note v3, “There is no actual speech or word”] and Rom. 1.20), what does this tell us about how God is revealed to us in Jesus (see 1.18)?
6. The whole idea inherent in “the Word” is one of revelation – in the Old Testament “the word of the Lord” revealed God's will, power, and creation. In John 1.14, how did “the Word” (Jesus) reveal God to us? What did He reveal to us?

JESUS IS *the Word* .