

John 8:31-59—Jesus is God

- **Intro:**
 - v.58—truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.
 - Possibly the most dramatic of all the I Am statements.
 - It's crystal clear that these Pharisees knew exactly what Jesus was saying because they prepared to STONE him—Jesus was claiming to be God!
 - Why?
 - Exodus 3:14-15—If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'the God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, 'what is his name? what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, I am who I am. And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you....This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."
 - **2 Ways Jesus is "BEFORE" Abraham:**
 - **Creator**—he is the firstborn over all creation; he has all authority.
 - We OWE him our LIVES and obedience
 - **Messiah**—Jesus opposes our self-salvation efforts; Abraham had placed his hope of salvation and righteousness in the coming of this Messiah!
 - **Because Jesus is God—There is FREEDOM from sin (v.31-38)**
 - Jesus starts this conversation at FREEDOM and SLAVERY
 - v.34—"everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."
 - **AS HUMANS, WE DON'T JUST SIN BUT ARE ENSLAVED TO SIN.**
 - Our hearts and wills are enslaved to our passions and sins and therefore, will ALWAYS choose sin.
 - Outside of Christ, our hearts are enslaved. Our freedom ALWAYS manifests itself in sin.
 - v.32, 36—John connects TRUTH in v.32 with The Son in v.36 as the means of FREEDOM.
 - **Because Jesus is God—He is the only way to SALVATION (v.39-47)**
 - v.39, 41—these Jews are TOTALLY missing it. They are still focused on lineage.
 - **Sonship**—all throughout the Scriptures, sonship is attached to CONDUCT and LIKENESS
 - Who do you obey?
 - Who do you resemble?
 - v.42—Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me."
 - **YOU CANNOT LOVE GOD AND HATE/BE INDIFFERENT TO JESUS!**
 - v.44—You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.
 - These Jews have been appealing to Abraham as their source of security and assurance and hope.
 - Start Dichotomy—Jesus is looking at ethnic Jews and is attesting to the fact that they are followers of Satan.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3—And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, lie the rest of mankind.
 - Ultimately, these Jews got something right and something wrong in their attachment to Abraham:
 - **Right**—they knew they needed to cling to somebody for their assurance and salvation.
 - **Wrong**—they clung to Abraham, a dead man, rather than the Messiah to which even Abraham looked and clung!

- **Because Jesus is God—He is worthy of ultimate WORSHIP (v.48, 54)**
 - v.50—Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, he is the judge.
 - v.54—Jesus answered, If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'
 - Isaiah 42:8—I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
 - God WILL NOT share his glory with another—the only way Jesus can say this is if he is, indeed, God.
- **Because Jesus is God—Death is Conquered (v.51-58)**
 - v.51—Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.
 - Only God possesses and can give immortality!
 - v.55—“But you have not known him. I know him.”
 - We don't have to die because Jesus and the father are ONE.
 - Hebrews 2:9—but we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
 - v.56—Even Abraham looked and saw, in the promise of God's Messiah Redeemer, a coming day to rejoice in. He did not begrudge that the Messiah was greater than himself but looked forward in faith and joy for that day!
 - v.58—“truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
 - “It is as if Jesus said, 'I am the revelation of God. I am the place of the divine presence and revelation in history!
 - This is WHY God can offer FREEDOM to enslaved sinners and LIFE FOREVER to all who abide in Jesus!
 - Because Jesus is God, his work on the cross and his resurrection are CERTAIN to be successful!
- **Because Jesus is God—We must reckon with Him and decide!**
 - Jesus, in saying this, is wrapping up ALL that God is—his infiniteness, his holiness, his justice, his grace—in servanthood, in laying down his life as an atonement for our rebellion and is offering to us the ability to behold the glory of God without FEAR!
 - **2 Options:**
 - Rise Up to Stone Him
 - Bow Down to Surrender to Him