

Understanding the Living Word

In the same way that our words express our heart and mind to others, Jesus Christ, the divine living Word (John 1:1), reveals God's heart and mind to mankind. The Word is the declaration of the invisible God to mankind (John 1:14; 14:9). The purpose of this declaration is to know God and the way of our salvation.

- I. Jesus Christ is God's Final Word (Heb 1:1–3).
 - A. Brightness of His glory (Heb. 1:3)
 - Glory—the glory of God is the substance of who God is in all of His attributes.
 - Brightness—external or the visible luster of God.
 - B. Express Image of his person (Heb. 1:3; John 14:9; Col. 1:15)
 - Express Image—to carve, an exact representation of the object whose image it bore. We get our word character from this Greek word.
- II. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word (John 1:1)
 - A. Jesus' pre-existence
 1. The testimony of John the Baptist (John 1:15).
 2. The testimony of Jesus Christ (John 8:54–59)
 3. The apostle John testified that Jesus came from Heaven (I John 4:2–3; II John 7).

- B. The Word was before the beginning (John 1:1–2).
1. “...*The Word was with God...*”—denoting nearness in an intimate relationship with God.
 2. “...*The Word was God...*”—a person of the godhead.
- C. Jesus Christ has accomplished eternal works
1. He is the author of eternal salvation (Heb. 5:9).
 2. He obtained eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12).
 3. He gives the promise of eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15).
 4. He has an eternal throne (Heb. 1:8).
 5. He is a Priest forever (Heb 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21).
 6. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

III. Jesus Christ is the _____ Word (John 1:3)

A. Jesus Christ created _____ things

“All things were made by Him...” and then the phrase is added, *“...Without Him was not anything made that was made.”*

- This was given to us so there would be no mistake that Jesus was God and was present and involved in every creative act.

B. Jesus Christ _____ all creation

1. Hebrews 1:3

a. "...Upholding all things..."

- to have in charge, to direct, govern

b. "...By the word of His power..."

- In the way God spoke and the worlds were framed, Jesus also directs all creation by the word He has spoken. The power is *dunamis* power. He has power well able to create and maintain all things by just speaking the words.

2. Colossians 1:17 "...and He is before all things, and by him all things consist"

- All things have been "set together" by Jesus Christ. All invisible and visible things are being held together and maintained by Jesus Christ.

IV. Jesus Christ is _____ Word (John 1:4; I John 1:1)

A. Jesus is the Word of Life (I John 1:1; John 11: 25; 14:6).

- Life is a key theme in John's Gospel. It is used thirty-six times. There are four elements that are essential for life:

1. _____ (John 8:12)

2. _____ (John 3:8; 20:22)

3. _____ (John 4:10, 13-14; 7:37-39)

4. _____ (John 6:35)

B. Jesus is the Light of Life

- Jesus is life and desires to become our life (Col 3:3–4).
- 1. His life is the light of men (John 1:4).
- 2. Men in darkness struggle with understanding Jesus Christ (John 1:5, 10–11; II Cor. 4:4).
- 3. He gives light to every person that comes into the world (John 1:9).
 - a. _____ (Psalm 19:1–3; Rom 1:20)
 - b. _____ (Rom.1:19; 2:12–16)
 - c. _____ (I Peter 1:23–25)