

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Unbelief Is A Choice

John 1:18, No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

- *Has declared Him, has revealed Him, has rehearsed Him, has put Him on display*

.....
*John is revealing Jesus, and **Jesus is demonstrating God***

.....
First John the Baptist testified to who He is.

- "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." **John 1:34**

.....
*Then they invited Him to a wedding, and He began **showing them** who He is*

.....
In Jerusalem He went into the temple and boldly confronted their perversion of worship

- *The Jews said, "Justify Yourself!"*
- *He did more miraculous signs and many believed in Him*
- *Nicodemus believed Him, and was compelled to seek Him out*

.....
He leaves and shatters all religious & social boundaries with the Samaritan woman at the well

- *She, and many of her whole city believed in Him*

.....
*He returns & heals a paralytic man in the temple, **on the Sabbath!***

- *The Jews begin asking Him, "**Who do You think You are?**"*
- *And He tells them*

John 5:17 & 18, But Jesus answered them, "**My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.**" Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, **making Himself equal with God.**

.....
John 5:19 & 30, Jesus answered and said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**"

"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

.....
John 5:31-47, He confronts them with **the standard of God's Word** they are authorities of.

- *Most frauds don't like being exposed in their hypocrisy.*
- *They have two options: Admit the truth, or attack.*

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Vs. 31, "**If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not valid.**" (**Deut. 17 & 19**)

- **Matthew 18:16**, '**by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**'

.....
There are **seven scriptural witnesses** to Christ's Divinity (**In several places each**)

- **John the Baptist**, John 1:34
- **The Works of Christ**, John 5:36
- **The Father**, John 5:37

- **The Old Testament**, John 5:39
- **Jesus Christ Himself**, John 8:14
- **The Holy Spirit**, John 15:26
- **Believers**, John 15:27

.....
Vs. 32, “There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.” (*The Father*, **Vs. 17, 19 & 30**)

Vs. 33, “You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.”

- He testified openly that I am the Messiah. Do you believe him?
- Would you like to publicly accuse him of being untruthful?

.....
Vs. 34, “Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things **that you may be saved.**”

- Christ referred to John the Baptist because they had sought him out
- Even though, He doesn’t rely on human testimony (**2:24-25**)

.....
 Though **they seek His condemnation**, in spite of the evidence of who He is...

- **He seeks their salvation** (John 3:17)
- He refers to John to offer them an out

.....
Vs. 35, “He **was the burning and shining lamp**, and you **were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.**”

- Both statements are past tense. (This book is not strictly chronological)
- The Baptist may have been imprisoned and executed by now
- Jesus is saying; You affirmed him when he was popular. How about now?

.....
Vs. 36, “But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—**the very works that I do**—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

- The works **only God can do**, are themselves witness of who I am
- Works you yourselves have seen
- They are witness evidence I am of, and one with the Father

.....
Vs. 37, “And **the Father Himself**, who sent Me, **has testified of Me**. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.”

- They so convince themselves **what is not**, that God Himself does not persuade them
- Unbelief is not from lack of evidence. It is a commitment to not believe

.....
Vs. 38, “But you do not have **His word abiding in you**, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.”

- “Whom He sent”, who is speaking to them now, **IS THE WORD!** (John 1:1-2)
- How hard did they have to fight to maintain their resistance

.....
Vs. 39-40, “**You search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me**. But **you are not willing to come to Me** that you may have life.”

.....
Saul of Tarsus was such a person (the apostle Paul)

- Pride blinding him to the scriptures he believed he knew so well
- Willing to put Christ’s followers to death, until Christ shattered His deceptions. (**Acts 9:1-9**)

.....
Philippians 3:7-9, But **what things were gain to me**, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for **the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is

from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

That's what they were faced with to believe & receive Christ for who He is

- What they were so proud of, what set them above everyone else...
- Was now valued as **garbage** by comparison

That's true for us too, even though we were not committed opponents of Christ

- Anything that would hinder us from being free in & with Christ...
- **Is Garbage!** Foul, stinking filth we would be happy to put in the dumpster of life

Cain killed his brother, rather than discard his self-directed "offering" as useless

- These people are willing to kill the Messiah because he exposes **what defines them** as worthless

Vs. 41-42, "I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you."

- Those secure in God's honor, have no need of being honored by other people
- I'm sure **they knew He knew them** just as surely as Nathanael did – **FULLY!**

Vs. 43-44, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"

"If another comes in his own name, him you will receive."

- Because you see most as your inferiors; some as competitor peers.
- They pose no threat to your status, and are certainly not you superiors.

*But they know this Man is **who He says He is***

- And **they know He knows they know**, so they are accountable
- They know what Nicodemus knows, but they're not about to do what he did

Vs. 45-47, "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father"

- Do you think they thought they dodged a bullet there?
- He had already said, **"God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."** John 3:17

But then He said, "There is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust."

- You claim to have entrusted yourselves to him and what he said. **To him you shall go.**
- Do you think they thought they were safe now?
- Not if they really know what he said.

Next Jesus reminded them, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me."

- Time may have slowed to a crawl then, while their minds raced...

And He concluded, "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

- Their mouths may have been gaping as He turned and walked away