

Jesus by John

Part 3: SPIRITUAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS



INTRODUCTION – The Word in Flesh (and Clothing)

Styles of Christian Churches:

1. Liturgical
2. Traditional
3. Contemporary
4. Plain

Christian Religion (Negative):

Reliance on forms rather than faith for salvation. A system of achieving life rather than receiving life. A heart attitude that bonds with structures and styles as the way to God.

VS

Christian Religion (Positive):

Faith in Jesus and the structures instituted by Christ for his Church.

DINE IN – Imagining the Unimaginable

What's the BIG IDEA?

Jesus is the Creator who gives life and light.

John 1:2-5

A.W. Tozer's thought experiment...

Ephesians 1:4; Psalm 33:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2; Proverbs 3:19; 8:22-31; John 8:12; 1 Corinthians 8:6; James 2:19

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

If "light" generally represents knowledge, and "life" generally points to being and personhood, then light is useless if it doesn't come from life. Knowing something is ultimately unsatisfying if it doesn't come from and lead to knowing someone. Relationship with Jesus through faith is the road to the right kind of spiritual and theological knowing.

CONCLUSION – We Were Loved Before We Were Born

Ephesians 1:4

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Today, the word made flesh in the form of the Church is expressed and displayed in a variety of ways. List some strengths and weaknesses for each common church style today: Liturgical, Traditional, Contemporary, and Plain.
2. In his book on John called "The Light Has Come", Lesslie Newbigin writes: "*Jesus is the clue for understanding all that is.*" In what ways is this true?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **John 1:2-5** and **Colossians 1:15-17**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) The LIFE of Christ represents his person, his own being, shared with us. The LIGHT of Christ represents knowledge about God and ourselves. How are light and life related in the Christian life? How do they interact? C) What do you think is the significance that the activity of the darkness in **verse 5** is past tense while the activity of the light is ongoing present tense? D) What do you think **Colossians 1:17** means by saying that in Jesus "all things hold together"?
4. Read **Ephesians 1:4-5**. What is your reaction to these verses? Comfort? Puzzlement? Something else? Why?

Discerning Our Mission Together...

5. Where do you see people having global impact? What groups or organizations are you connected to or passionate about that are making a difference on a global scale? What excites you about these?
6. Pause to pray and ask God to give the group unity and clarity, wise counsel and a clear sense of his heart for The Meeting House over the next few years.
7. What do you think were some of the most important lessons that we learned through Mission 2?
8. Where do you think God is leading us to focus ourselves as The Meeting House family over the next few years?

The Meeting House | Sunday, January 22/29, 2012 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching
or on your mobile device at youversion.com (search for *The Meeting House*)
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