

INTRODUCTION

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one** just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- * This week’s message launches a study on the gospel according to John as we look at the fit, form and function of John’s gospel. Its fit within the Bible, its form in terms of some of its unique structure, especially in comparison to the other gospel accounts, and then finally its function or purpose.
- * As part of this, we’ll consider a two-fold purpose that the Apostle John seems to have been given by the Holy Spirit. A two-fold purpose that was closely related to one of the major challenges faced by the early church in the late first century when John penned this book, namely the challenge of Gnosticism, a false religion that sought to undermine the identity and work of Jesus Christ.
- * So, first and foremost, it was John’s intent to make the deity of Jesus Christ crystal clear to us. To make it absolutely clear that Jesus is God...the Son of God who became The Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.
- * But then it seems that John’s secondary purpose was for the knowledge of the deity of Christ to fuel the unity of the church, so that the church could more effectively fulfill its mission in a climate where false teaching was on the increase.
- * The deity of Jesus undergirding the unity of the church...that we may be one, so that the world may know! The heart of John’s gospel and timeless truth that we need to hear, understand and apply today. Let’s get started!

INSTRUCTION

I. The F _____ of the Gospel of John (Fit is the ability of the part to connect to, mate with, or join to another part within an assembly or system, in this case the Gospel of John within the Bible.)

The Bible: ___ books, written by ___ different human authors over approximately ___ years in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) and on 3 different continents (Africa, Asia and Europe) but with a common storyline, theme and message.

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible word of God and it can be completely trusted to provide all the information and instructions we need to live our lives in a way that honors and glorifies God.

The Author of John’s Gospel: The _____ that Jesus _____. (John 21:20, 24)

II. The F _____ of the Gospel of John (Form refers to a part’s characteristics such as its dimensions, weight, or visual appearance. Our look at “form” will focus on the structure and some of the unique aspects of John’s gospel.)

- Notable “O _____” from John’s account and key “I _____” in John’s account:
- John’s emphasis on “life” and “eternal life” in the present vs. the future Kingdom of God/Heaven:
- The timing of the writing of John’s account and the threat of Gnosticism:

III. The F _____ of the Gospel of John (Function refers to the criteria that are met when the part performs its stated purpose effectively and reliably. John’s gospel has a specific function to reveal Jesus as God that it continues to fill today.)

3 Ways John’s gospel account reveals the deity of Jesus:

Through many _____

Through 7 specific _____

Through Jesus’s own _____

John 1:1, 14; 1:29; 3:16-17; 8:31-32; 10:10, 10:27-30; 11:25-26; 13:34-35; 14:6; 14:14-17; 15:5; 20:29

What are you going to do differently in order to take full advantage of our study of The Gospel According to John?