



The Deity of Jesus

John 10

10:9 – How does Jesus describing Himself as the gate to salvation help us understand Him?

Society seeks to dilute the message of Christ. Being surrounded by so many people who have a “tolerant” perspective of how we may have eternal life pressures us to compromise on the biblical view of salvation. But in John 10:9 Jesus said, “*I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved*” (NIV). The Lord Himself is the only way to eternal life. God put His followers in strategic places to make sure people hear the truth whenever there is an opportunity. So be ready to explain why a relationship with Christ sets His followers apart from all the religions of the world whenever anyone implies that all religions are the same. Religion has lead more people away from Christ than anything else in this world.

10:10 – What is the difference between those who truly seek to help us grow closer to Christ and imitators?

The clash of cultures going on in the world today presents us with good opportunities to help our associates see the benefits of following Christ. Jesus warned of false messiahs that would deceive many people in Matthew 24:5. In John 10:10 Jesus called these false messiahs thieves who “*come only to steal and kill and destroy*” (NIV). So, false messiahs can be identified by the death and destruction following them. Indeed, that is the legacy of many cults and religious groups, even some who claim to be Christians. In contrast, Jesus gives life making it possible for those who trust in Him to have eternal life. The difference between those who love God and those who rebel against Him today is stunning. We should use this to help our associates see the spiritual reasons for the culture war.

10:10 – How may we enjoy life more?

It is easy to get discouraged in this fallen world. We can however be encouraged by considering why Jesus came. In John 10:10 Jesus said, “*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*” (NKJV). The abundance of life is not only the length of life in eternity but it is life as good as it can be in the here and now. The Lord helps us face our difficulties rather than deny them. God allows problems and pain in our life to help us learn to depend on Him. The more we experience God helping us through our difficulties, the more encouraged we will be.

10:10 – Why is discontentment should a wide-spread problem?

Discontentment is rampant in our society despite people generally having things pretty good. God designed us this way so that we would look forward to the ultimate fulfillment of our desires in heaven. A person may be content with their life now if they are confident they’ll be spending eternity with the Lord. Jesus wants people to have that assurance. Jesus said the reason He came in John 10:10 was so, “*they may have life, and have it to the full*” (NIV). A full life is a fulfilling life knowing that you are satisfying God’s purpose. So make sure your associates know that a fulfilling life begins when they recognize their need for Jesus and follow Him.

10:11 – How does Jesus describing Himself as the Good Shepherd help us understand Him?

When life becomes especially challenging, it is helpful to consider that we have a Good Shepherd who cares about our needs. In John 10:11, Jesus said, “*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep*” (NIV). Jesus demonstrated God’s love for those who would follow Him by paying the debt for our sin. Since God went to such an extent so that we could be able to spend eternity with Him, He certainly will provide what we need in this world as a Shepherd provides for His sheep. As sheep, we have a propensity to get ourselves into trouble. But it is amazing how things just work out when we follow our Shepherd Jesus Christ. We can follow our Shepherd closer by getting Him involved in our life through prayer.

10:16 – How is it encouraging to know we are part of one flock?

We receive many benefits from fellowshiping with other Christians even outside our church. Despite different church backgrounds, all who follow Christ have the most important things in common. Speaking to Jewish believers in John 10:16, Jesus said: “*I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd*” (NIV). The “other sheep” Jesus referred to are Gentiles who trust in Him. There are many different Christian denominations today that differ in worship styles and traditions but those who truly follow Christ are “one flock” with the same Shepherd in Jesus. It is encouraging to swap stories with our Christian friends of how God is working in our life. So seek out the “other sheep” God brings into your life today!

10:17-18 – How may we best deal with life when things seem out of control?

It helps to remember that God is in control. God turned a great tragedy into the greatest victory in all of history when Jesus died on the cross. For those close to Jesus it certainly looked like God was not in control when Jesus was condemned to die. But Jesus came to die. He said in John 10:17-18, *“I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me”* (NIV). Jesus dying looked like an out-of-control situation until it became clear that it was God’s plan to pay the sin penalty of those trusting in Him. Likewise, it helps us to remember that God can turn our difficulties into victories when we view our situation from His perspective rather than our own.

10:19-21 – How does presenting both sides of the story reinforce the truth of the Bible?

There are many opportunities to discuss current events today. However most of the information we get in the media is reported with some sort of bias. News reports leave out certain details that influence people to take the view of the reporter. This is why the Bible is so refreshing. The Gospels are not propaganda; they present the facts in such a way that the reader must make their own decision about Jesus. For example, in John 10:19-21 some people accused Jesus of being insane because of His claims about Himself. But Jesus supported His claims with supernatural actions such as healing a man born blind. So the next time your associates lament the bias of the news media, point out the believability of the Bible because it does tell both sides of the story.

10:27-28 – Why is it a blessing that we know we have eternal life in the here and now?

Most older workers look forward to the day when they become fully vested in their company’s retirement plan. Such a status usually means more work options and even freedom to change fields if desired. As good as looking forward to a company retirement plan is, God offers an even better plan, eternal life. And this is a plan that we may be fully vested in when we trust in Christ and start following Him. Jesus said in John 10:27-28, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand”* (NIV). Knowing that our eternal destiny is secure takes the pressure off having to pack all we can into our life as if this life is all there is.

10:30 – How does knowing Jesus is God help us in the here and now?

Following Jesus is significantly easier when you consider who He really is. In John 10:30, Jesus made the bold statement, *“I and the Father are one”* (NIV). The religious leaders who heard this understood it to be a claim of deity

because they attempted to stone Jesus for blasphemy. Following Jesus isn’t about following some founder of a religion; we are following the Almighty Creator of the universe. Since Jesus came so that we may have a personal relationship with Him, He certainly cares about our following Him. If we trust Him with our eternal salvation, we can certainly trust Him to help us do what this life requires. The more we get Him involved in our life through prayer, the more we’ll see Him working with us.