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# Sermon Notes

November 27, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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**Who is Jesus?**  
**Jesus is God**  
John 1:1-14

## The Question

- ❖ The question, "Who is Jesus?" is the most important question you will ever answer
  - you will either answer this question during your life on earth, or in the life to come
  - your answer effects your quality of life now as well as your eternal destiny
- ❖ Advent, a time to do important soul work

## The 4 Gospels

- ❖ Each of the 4 Gospels examines the life and ministry of Jesus from a different point of view and for a different audience
  - Matthew writes for a Jewish audience
  - Mark writes to show Jesus is God's servant

- Luke writes a carefully researched history
- John writes to reveal that Jesus is the Son of God who becomes man
- ❖ None of the 4 Gospels begin with Jesus' birth
  - John takes us back into eternity past
  - John shows us how things were "before the beginning"
    - eternal intimacy between the Father and the Son
    - collaboration between the Father and the Son in creating the world
  - John establishes Jesus' identity before he begins to write about events that relate to Jesus' earthly ministry
    - John does not attempt to give a complete biography of Jesus
    - John's purpose for his Gospel: John 20:30-31

## In the Beginning Was the Word

- ❖ John refers to Jesus as *the Word*
  - **Word** translates the Greek word, *logos*
  - in ancient Greek philosophy, *logos* was used to identify what is known as the "First Cause"
    - an intelligent and divine but unknown power behind the universe
    - for the Greeks, *logos* signifies ultimate wisdom

- ❖ By getting Genesis 1:1 on our minds, John wants us to think about the creation of the world
  - God spoke the world into being (Psalm 33:6)
  - through the Word & Wisdom of God, creation happens
- ❖ *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (v. 14)

### Jesus is God

- ❖ Jesus is eternal, He was before all things
  - Hebrews 1:1-2, Revelation 1:8, Philippians 2:6
  - Jesus' preexistence is an important aspect of His divinity
- ❖ Jesus was with God
  - "with" suggests a relationship
  - the Son has a separate and distinct personality from God the Father
  - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all God, they share the same substance, but each of them has His own distinct function and His own specific sphere of ministry
- ❖ Jesus is fully divine
  - Jesus is not less than the Father, He is equal to the Father
  - Jesus possesses all the same divine attributes as God the Father

### Why Does This Matter?

- ❖ Believing Jesus is God means we can now know the truth about God... we know what God is like
- ❖ Believing Jesus is God means that God has always been like Jesus
- ❖ Believing Jesus is God means that his death on the cross has significance
- ❖ Believing Jesus is God means that Jesus is able to satisfy all the needs of your heart
- ❖ Believing Jesus is God means we will submit to Him as to God Himself
- ❖ Believing Jesus is God is essential to the Christian faith

### Personal Reflection

1. How do you answer the question, "Who is Jesus"? Do you believe it is the most important question you will ever answer? Why or why not?
2. How would you explain to someone else that Jesus is God?
3. Do you think someone can have saving faith in Jesus without believing He is God? Why or why not?