

## **JESUS AFFIRMS HIS DEITY**

John 10:23-42

### **Introduction:**

1. In this passage, Jesus faces direct confrontation from the Jews who demand that He declare plainly whether He is the Christ: His response reveals not only His messianic identity but also His divine nature (**John 10:24-25**).
2. The Jews' reaction to Jesus' statement, "I and My Father are one," shows that they understood His claim to deity but rejected it, choosing instead to accuse Him of blasphemy (**John 10:30-33**).
3. This passage must be carefully studied, because Jesus does not – as some allege - retreat from His claim but boldly affirms His unity with the Father, drawing on scripture, divine testimony, and His miraculous works (**John 10:34-36**).

### **1. The Jews Demand A Plain Answer (John 10:24-25):**

- a. The Jews press Jesus to declare openly whether He is the Christ:
  - 1) They encircle Him at the temple during the feast, seeking an open confession (**John 10:24**).
  - 2) Their motive is not pure inquiry but seeking grounds to accuse and condemn (**Luke 11:53-54; cp. John 8:59**).
  - 3) Jesus responds that He has already told them, and His works also testify, yet they refuse to believe (**John 5:36; cp. John 12:37**).
- b. Their unbelief proves that they are not part of His flock:
  - 1) Jesus' sheep hear His voice and follow Him, but they were deaf to His words (**John 10:26-27**).
  - 2) Spiritual blindness keeps the truth hidden from unbelieving hearts (**2 Corinthians 4:4; cp. Matthew 13:15**).
  - 3) Their hardened hearts fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah regarding stubborn unbelief (**Isaiah 6:9-10; cp. Matthew 13:14-15**).
- c. Jesus' declaration "I and my Father are one" intensifies their hostility:
  - 1) He claims not merely a shared mission but essential unity with the Father (**John 10:30**).
  - 2) The Jews recognize the implication and take up stones to kill Him for blasphemy (**John 10:31; cp. Leviticus 24:16**).
  - 3) Their violent reaction exposes their unwillingness to engage with His words honestly (**John 8:40**).

### **2. Jesus Refutes The Charge Of Blasphemy (John 10:34-36):**

- a. Jesus exposes their inconsistency by citing Psalms 82:
  - 1) In this psalm, God calls certain individuals "gods" because they received the Word of God (**Psalms 82:6**).
  - 2) Some today falsely claim that this psalm refers to a "divine council" of angelic beings ruling the nations.
  - 3) However, when we examine the context, it becomes clear that God is addressing corrupt human judges and leaders of Israel, rebuking them for unjust rulings and oppression of the needy (**Psalms 82:2-4; cp. Exodus 22:8-9**).
- b. The human rulers were called "gods" because they held delegated authority from God:
  - 1) They were appointed to execute judgment on behalf of God among the people (**Deuteronomy 1:16-17**).
  - 2) Their failure brought God's condemnation and the declaration that they would die like mere men (**Psalms 82:7**).
  - 3) The term "gods" does not imply divinity but a temporary, earthly authority entrusted by God (**2 Chronicles 19:6-7; cp. John 10:35**).

c. Jesus appeals to His unique sanctification and the father's public testimony:

- 1) Jesus points to the fact that He is the one “**whom the Father hath sanctified**, and sent into the world” (**John 10:36**): This statement is not casual - it is the *key verse* that unlocks the true meaning of His defense. Jesus is not retreating from His claim of deity; He is reinforcing it by reminding them of the Father's public endorsement.
- 2) The sanctification of which He speaks refers directly to His baptism by John, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and the Father declared from heaven, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (**Matthew 3:16-17**; cp. **John 1:32-34**): This event was public, significant, and known either firsthand or by report to His audience.
- 3) Since the Father Himself openly sanctified and identified Jesus as His Son, it exposes the injustice of their accusation of blasphemy (**John 10:36**; cp. **Matthew 17:5**): They were rejecting not just Jesus' words, but the clear testimony of God Himself.

**3. Jesus Appeals To His Works As Further Evidence (John 10:37-39):**

a. Jesus calls upon His works to validate His claims:

- 1) His miracles are acts of divine power that testify of His unity with the Father (**John 5:36**).
- 2) These works were intended to confirm His identity and lead others to faith (**John 20:30-31**).
- 3) The miraculous healings, raising the dead, and command over nature are clear demonstrations of His divine authority (**John 9:32-33**; cp. **Luke 7:22**).

b. Jesus presents an honest challenge to the Jews:

- 1) If He did not do the works of His Father, they would have reason to reject Him (**John 10:37**).
- 2) But because His works clearly demonstrate divine authority, they are called to believe based on the evidence (**John 10:38**).
- 3) Believing His works would lead them to the truth that the Father is in Him, and He in the Father (**John 14:10-11** cp. **John 5:19**).

c. The Jews' attempt to seize Him shows wilful blindness:

- 1) Rather than fairly evaluating His works, they harden their hearts and seek His destruction (**John 10:39**).
- 2) Their hostility fulfills the pattern of unbelief warned about in scripture (**John 12:37-40**; cp. **Isaiah 53:1**).
- 3) Jesus escapes from their hands because His appointed time had not yet come (**John 7:30**; cp. **John 8:20**).

**Conclusion:**

1. Jesus did not retreat from His claim of deity; He boldly affirmed it through scripture, the Father's public testimony, and His miraculous works (**John 10:36**; cp. **Hebrews 1:1-3**).
2. The Jews' rejection was not based on misunderstanding but on wilful rebellion against clear evidence (**John 12:40**; cp. **Acts 7:51**).
3. Today the same question confronts us: will we believe the clear testimony of Jesus Christ, or harden our hearts and reject the only Savior? (**John 3:16-18**; cp. **1 John 5:10-12**).

**Applications:**

1. We Must Accept The Full Testimony About Jesus Christ: Just as the Jews were held accountable for rejecting the clear witness of the Father, we today must accept all that the Scriptures reveal about Jesus — His deity, His sonship, and His saving mission (**John 5:39**; cp. **1 John 5:10-12**).

2. We Must Judge Spiritual Claims By God's Evidence, Not By Human Assumptions: The Jews judged Jesus based on their traditions and expectations, rather than on the clear evidence of His works and the Father's testimony (**John 10:37-38; cp. Isaiah 55:8-9**).
3. We Must Beware Of Hardening Our Hearts Against Truth: Continual rejection of divine testimony leads not to neutrality, but to spiritual blindness and judgment, just as it did with the opponents of Jesus (**John 12:37-40; cp. Hebrews 3:12-13**).

**Questions:**

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I and my Father are one" (**John 10:30**)?
2. Why did the Jews take up stones to stone Jesus (**John 10:31-33**)?
3. In Jesus' defense, to what passage of Scripture did He appeal (**John 10:34**)?
4. What important event did Jesus allude to when He said the Father had sanctified Him (**John 10:36**)?
5. How do Jesus' works support His claim of unity with the Father (**John 10:37-38**)?
6. What should people do if they are not convinced by Jesus' words alone (**John 10:38**)?
7. What danger is there in continually rejecting the testimony about Jesus (**John 12:37-40**)?

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## Questions & Answers

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I and my Father are one” (**John 10:30**)?

Answer: Jesus meant that He and the Father are united not only in purpose but in nature and essence (**John 10:30**).

2. Why did the Jews take up stones to stone Jesus (**John 10:31-33**)?

Answer: The Jews sought to stone Jesus because they understood His claim of deity and accused Him of blasphemy (**John 10:31-33**).

3. In Jesus' defense, to what passage of Scripture did He appeal (**John 10:34**)?

Answer: Jesus appealed to Psalm 82:6, where certain human rulers are called “gods” because they received the word of God (**John 10:34; cp. Psalm 82:6**).

4. What important event did Jesus allude to when He said the Father had sanctified Him (**John 10:36**)?

Answer: Jesus alluded to His baptism, when the Father publicly declared Him as His Son (**John 10:36; cp. Matthew 3:16-17**).

5. How do Jesus' works support His claim of unity with the Father (**John 10:37-38**)?

Answer: Jesus' works—His miracles and signs—demonstrated divine power and confirmed His unity with the Father (**John 10:37-38**).

6. What should people do if they are not convinced by Jesus' words alone (**John 10:38**)?

Answer: They should believe the works He performed, which clearly testify to His divine mission (**John 10:38**).

7. What danger is there in continually rejecting the testimony about Jesus (**John 12:37-40**)?

Answer: Continual rejection of divine testimony results in hardened hearts and spiritual blindness (**John 12:37-40**).