

Jesus is the life of God

- This life of God is the life that he bestows on us.
- If the way to God begins with truth, it culminates in life — in *spiritual* not physical life.
 - Eternal life with God (John 3:16)
 - Freedom from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:6)
 - Comfort in the midst of trials (2 Corinthians 1:4)
 - Protection from the enemy (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
 - Every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
 - All things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
- Jesus is not just the means by which we attain this life, Jesus *is* the life. (John 15:4-5)
- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life:
 - Jesus is the way to the Father. There is no other way to be reconciled to the Father except through Jesus.
 - Jesus is the truth. There is no other truth that can set us on the way.
 - Jesus is the life. We cannot be spiritually alive except that we are connected to him.
- Jesus is the beginning, middle, and end of every blessing we receive. Christ alone has accomplished all things!

Solus Christus

John 14:6

Pastor Philip Bovenkamp

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Introduction

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

- Jesus made this statement to the eleven apostles during the Last Supper (after Judas had gone to betray him).
- From John 13:31-17:26, Jesus prepared the eleven for what was to come.
- In John 14:1-4, Jesus revealed to them that he would leave them for a time.
 - He promised them heaven, which he would prepare for them before returning to take them there.
 - It’s clear from how Jesus speaks of heaven that it is a literal place.
- In verse 5, Thomas asked how they would know the way to heaven (although he likely did not understand that Jesus was talking about heaven).
- Verse 6 is Jesus’ response to Thomas’ question.
- It is significant that Jesus claimed to be *the* way and *the* truth and *the* life, not merely *a* way, truth, and life. He emphasized that he alone is these things.
- It is also significant that he linked these claims with *and*. He cannot be only the way or only the truth or only the life. He is all three — they are inseparable and essential.
- Jesus’ claim to be the way is the direct answer to Thomas’ question. There is a sense that Jesus as the truth and the life further explain him as the way.

Jesus is the way to God

- The word that is translated way (*hodos*) means road or path, and implies that there is a distance or separation between two things.
- In this case, man is distant or separated from God (Ephesians 2:14)
- Man was not created separated from God, but Adam's sin brought about that separation.
- Man is now by nature sinful. God is by nature holy. It is that holiness that forms an impassible barrier and creates the separation between man and God.
- Religions and philosophies have proposed ways man for man to reach God (and in most cases, a grossly distorted view of God).
 - Buddhism teaches enlightenment and detachment.
 - Hinduism teaches various paths to eliminate bad "karma." Each path essentially amounts to working to improve yourself,
 - Judaism (misunderstood) teaches law-keeping, both moral and ceremonial. (Rightly understood, Judaism points the way to Christ.)
 - Islam teaches obedience to Allah. It is purely works-based. (Incidentally, Allah is *not* just another name for Jehovah. Allah is fundamentally different in nature and character.)
 - Paganism, although there are many disparate variations, generally teaches harmony with nature.
 - Humanism teaches self-actualization (since it believes that you yourself are as much a god anything is).
 - Pseudo-Christianity includes cults such as Jehovah's Witness and Mormonism. It could also include Roman Catholics and liberal Protestant denominations that have forsaken the gospel. Pseudo-Christianity teaches grace *and* works.
- Although these are overly-simplified summaries of their teachings, it illustrates that none of these comes close to overcoming the fundamental issue separating man from God — that a sinful man cannot approach a holy God.

- Jesus addresses *that* issue and provides the way — Jesus *is* the way.
 - Jesus changes man's nature (when man believes) from sin to righteousness. This is *regeneration*.
 - Jesus wraps man in Jesus' righteousness such that God evaluates man based on Jesus' righteous life. This is *justification*.
 - Jesus is the only way fallen men can be united to a holy God.
- Jesus was not just how we *came* to God but how we *continue* in God. 1 Timothy 2:5 says that Jesus *is* the one mediator between God and men, not *was* the mediator.
- Our fellowship with God is grounded and secure in Jesus.

Jesus is the truth from God

- In John 18:37, Jesus told Pilate that he came into the world "to bear witness to the truth." Pilate responded, "What is truth?" Although Pilate's question was intended cynically, it is an important question.
- "Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God" (John MacArthur, *The Truth War*).
- Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17) because God's word reveals the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God.
- But Jesus *has* the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God! And so when Jesus took on the form of a man, he was the ultimate revelation of God — he was the invisible God made visible (Colossians 1:15).
- Another way to put it is, Jesus made the *unknowable* God *knowable*. And not knowable in the sense of being aware of something, but knowable through experience and relationship.
- The way to God begins with truth. Jesus is the way to God, and he is also the truth from God.
- We don't just "get to know" Jesus from his advent and in that way become reconciled with God. The truth of God — his mind, will, character, and glory are manifested in the love, justice, and power of Jesus' righteous life and atoning death. It is the application of *this* truth that is the beginning of the way to God.