

I. Goal

The goal of this class is that we believe more intimately that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and believing this, that we have life in His name.

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30–31

II. Overview

At the start of this course, we asked, “How well do we know the Son of God?” Last week we did an overview of the book of John, examining just the high-level points of chapters 1–21. We saw that the gospel of John was written so that we will believe and be saved. From the beginning to the end of this gospel, the Holy Spirit speaks through John to reveal Jesus as the Son of God. This week we will look at who Jesus identifies Himself as.

III. What did Jesus claim about Himself?

What a person says or claims about themselves says much about their life, worldview and how they expect to be treated. Today we will examine several specific things Jesus said about Himself when He used the phrase “I am” (ego eimi, ἐγώ εἰμί). Ego is a primary pronoun of the first person = “I” (only expressed when emphatic).¹ There are seven “I Am” statements referenced in the gospel of John. We’ll cheat and consider another couple that are informative of what Jesus said about who He is.

IV. I am the Messiah – Chapter 4

*“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “**I who speak to you am He.**” John 4:23–26*

- A. Jesus tells the woman at the well that He is the Messiah, the Christ. This is significant because it’s the first time Jesus reveals to anyone that He is the Messiah. Point to ponder: Why did He pick her? Note that the word “He” in verse 4:26 is added by the translators working from koine Greek to English, as an aid to us, the readers. This is common even today whenever we translate from one language to another. Many translations tell us that a word, usually in italics or in parenthesis, was added to help us understand.

V. I am (God) – Chapter 8

*And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. ²⁴Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins.” ²⁵So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you from the beginning? ²⁶I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” ²⁷They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am He**, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. ²⁹And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” ³⁰As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. John 8:23–30*

*“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I am.**” ⁵⁹Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. John 8:56–59*

VI. I am the Son of God – Chapter 9, 10

*Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “**You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.**” ³⁸And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” John 9:35–39*

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰**I and the Father are one.**” John 10:27–30*

The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.” John 10:33

*“Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘**I am the Son of God**’? ³⁷If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” John 10:36–38*

VII. Selah² (Pause and consider)

VIII. I am the Bread of Life* – Chapter 6

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.” ³⁵Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life; He who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”** John 6:32–40

IX. I am the Light of the World* – Chapters 8, 9

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, **“I am the Light of the world; He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”** ¹³So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” John 8:12–13

Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, **I am the Light of the world.”** John 9:3–5

X. I am the Door of the Sheep* – Chapter 10

So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** ⁸All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹**I am the door;** if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:7–10

XI. I am the Good Shepherd* – Chapter 10

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they

will become one flock with one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” John 10:11–18

XII. I am the Resurrection and the Life* – Chapter 11

Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”** ²⁷She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.” John 11:21–27

XIII. I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life* – Chapter 14

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”** John 14:5–6

XIV. I am the True Vine* – Chapter 15

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:1–5

XV. Selah (Pause and consider)

1 Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Ego is used 365 times as “I”, 2581 times in 17 unique forms. Ego is the nominative case of the first personal pronoun. The pronoun, “I,” however, generally forms a part of the verb itself in Greek; for example, “luo” means “I loose,” the pronoun being incorporated in the verb form. Where the pronoun “ego” is added to the verb, it is almost invariably, if not entirely, emphatic. By far the greater number of instances are found in the Gospel of John, and there in the utterances of the Lord concerning Himself. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1473/nasb95/mgnt/0-1/>.

2 Selah (çelâh, to pause, a suspension of music, from a primitive root meaning to weigh or value). The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982), 934