

**I. WHY DOES HIS FATHER LOVE HIM?**

- a. He is the Good Shepherd
  - i. He careth for the sheep – He seeth the wolf coming (vs. 11)
  - ii. He is not a hireling, He is not “granted” life. He doesn’t “earn” life
    - 1. He IS life
    - 2. John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
    - 3. He is life and He gives it that we might have it more abundantly
  - iii. He knows and IS known of the Father (vs. 15)
    - 1. And yet he lays down His life
    - 2. Notice that He doesn’t HAVE to do it (vs. 18)
- b. He had the Authority
  - i. He could lay down His life of His own volition – it was voluntary
    - 1. No one could take it from Him
    - 2. In fact – He would never have had to die.
      - a. He could have lived forever
      - b. Methuselah lived 969 and died.
      - c. Death had no power over Him
      - d. The grave held no grip upon Him
      - e. He is God
    - 3. No man could take it from Him
  - ii. Who Killed Jesus?
    - 1. Not the decree of the Sanhedrin
    - 2. Not the command of Pilate
    - 3. Not the strength of the Roman Soldiers
    - 4. Not the bite of the nails in His hands and feet
    - 5. Isaiah 53:4 – “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”
  - iii. He could not only lay down His life, but could also take it back up (vs. 18)
    - 1. The language the Bible uses expresses it perfectly
    - 2. Nothing else demonstrates the voluntary nature of His death
    - 3. John 2:19 – “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
    - 4. Matthew 12:40 – “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
- c. THEREFORE (vs. 17) the Father loves Him
  - i. Because of VOLUNTARY obedience
    - 1. It wasn’t because He is the Good Shepherd

2. Not because He protected the sheep from thieves and robbers
3. But because He laid down His life (vs. 17)
- ii. It was a commandment that He obeyed (vs. 18)
  1. And the Father loved Him for it.
  2. And no wonder, He told us the same thing
    - a. John 15:10 – “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”
    - b. John 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
  3. We can show Him that we love Him
  4. After all, He loved us so much that He obeyed
  5. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- iii. Why does His Father Love Him?
  1. Because He laid down His life
  2. But Why does He lay down His life?

## II. WHY DOES HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE?

- a. There is only one very simple answer: For you
  - i. Hebrews 9:22 – “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
  - ii. *Man of sorrows, what a name, for the Son of God who came.*
  - iii. *Ruined sinners to reclaim, Halleluiah! What a Savior!*
- b. We could never do it for ourselves
  - i. Hebrews 9:12 – “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”
  - ii. Isaiah 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”
  - iii. Romans 8:3 – “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
- c. But He is the Good Shepherd
  - i. He lays His life down for the sheep
  - ii. The Lost Sheep
    1. Matthew 18:12 – “How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? (13) And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you,

he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.”

2. He set aside the Glories of Heaven
  3. And came here to Seek and to Save that which was lost
- iii. So, we see
1. Why does His Father Love Him (He obeyed)
  2. Why does He Lay Down His Life (For you)
  3. Everyone should be ready to respond to that
    - a. The Infinite Grace and Loving Mercy of God
    - b. A God that loved so much that He paid the debt!
    - c. A God that took my place, suffered the death I owed!
  4. So, why does He divide?

### III. WHY DOES HE DIVIDE?

- a. How many times have we read these words? (vs. 19)
  - i. And as always, it comes from unconverted religionists
  - ii. These are the ones from the last chapter
    1. Who thought they could see, but were blind
    2. Jesus told them, if they would admit their spiritual blindness
    3. That He could open their eyes too
  - iii. Religion has never had any love for the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ
    1. It is too simple! It is too free!
    2. Religion wants to do something, but Salvation is already DONE!
    3. Religion wants to walk on hot coals, crawl over broken glass
    4. Jesus just wants us to repent of our sin and turn to Him
  - iv. You can hear the derision in their voices (vs. 20)
    1. Who does He think He is?
    2. If anyone is supposed to be the shepherd, it is the trained priests
    3. That's the story today, you know
    4. Modernists and religious liberals still snicker at the Simple Gospel
    5. If you believe that Jesus Saves so simply, you need more seminary
  - v. Karis thought of this one
    1. People on the Internet right now (calling themselves Christians)
      - a. Badmouthing others who say that Jesus is the Answer
      - b. Yeah, there's plenty of problems, but Jesus is the Answer
      - c. If you don't think Jesus is the answer
      - d. Then maybe you've never met Him
    2. If you don't believe that Jesus is the Answer to every problem
      - a. And you don't believe that He will act in a person's life
      - b. Well, then you're living as a functional Deist.
    3. But that's not biblical!
      - a. The Bible tells us about a different God than that!
      - b. He's a trustworthy, knowable, loving God

- c. Who wants to be in every aspect of your life
  - b. The fact remains: He divides
    - i. Isaiah 8:14 – “And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”
    - ii. 1 Peter 2:8 – “And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”
    - iii. It only makes sense – He is the Word of God
    - iv. Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
  - c. Three whys
    - i. Why does His Father love Him, Why does He lay down His life
    - ii. Why does He divide – better to be divided by His sayings
    - iii. Than to be united in sin, death, and Hell.

#### IV. WHY HEAR YE HIM?

- a. That is the question that these Jews asked (vs. 20)
  - i. You can imagine them turning to address the crowd
  - ii. He has a devil. He is mad. Why are you listening to this person?
  - iii. John 6:68 – “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”
- b. The others offered two counter-arguments in defense (vs. 21)
  - i. These are not the words of Him that hath a devil
    1. These are a carefully considered statement.
    2. They’ve thought about it. Analyzed it. This is their finding.
    3. They couldn’t so ridicule His excellent doctrine
    4. Even the Jews officers had that testimony back in chapter 7
    5. John 7:46 – “The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”
  - ii. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?
    1. This was a valid point
    2. Isaiah 35:5 – “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.”
    3. The devil hates God, and hates God’s creation
    4. The devil is more likely to put out a man’s eyes than open them
- c. Hear Him, because He is God
  - i. Only He has life and gives it more abundantly
  - ii. Only He is the Good Shepherd that gives His life for His sheep
  - iii. Only He has the power to lay down His life and take it up again
  - iv. Hear Him, because He loves you and died for you!

v. So that leaves one question

**V. WHY NOT TODAY?**