

Jesus Christ is God, and He is the Only Way of Salvation

John 14:4-11

John 14:4-11 – *“And where I go you know, and the way you know.”*⁵ Thomas said to Him, *“Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”*⁶ Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*⁷ *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”*⁸ Philip said to Him, *“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”*⁹ Jesus said to him, *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*¹⁰ *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*¹¹ *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”*

Background Notes

“And where I go you know, and the way you know” (v4). With these words the Lord reminded His disciples that He had already told them that He would be going away - that He had come from Heaven and would be going back to Heaven.

At this point, however, Thomas was confused and said, *“Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”* (v5). Thomas sounded a little uptight here, but Jesus was patient with him. In response to his question, the Lord spoke that well known gospel text: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

John 14:6 is a great gospel text! I have used this many times in witnessing. It is a universal gospel text, explaining that the Lord Jesus Christ is the **only** way to God.

Notice the beginning of verse 7: *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also...”* Verse 7 seems to be a mild rebuke to the disciples for not having matured in their understanding about the person of our Lord. He needed to remind them that He is **fully God**. It seems to be a rebuke because these are the same words that the Lord spoke to the unbelieving Jews back in John 8:19: *“Then they said to Him, ‘Where is Your Father?’ Jesus answered, ‘You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.’”*

But there is a difference in what the Lord said to the disciples in John 14, because here the Lord went on to add, *“from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”* Unlike the unbelieving Jews, the disciples **did** have faith, and they were

growing in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus as God. Moreover, the Lord stated that they would continue to grow and mature in that knowledge, particularly after the resurrection.

At this point, Philip, the realist, said, “*Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us*” (v8). Maybe Philip was hoping for a *theophany*. Maybe Philip was thinking of the great experience when Moses saw the form and glory of God (Exodus 33). I wonder - if we had been there with the disciples, would we have asked a question like Thomas, or perhaps made a request like Philip?

The Lord was disappointed at this request, and He said, “*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?*” But despite His disappointment, our Lord went on to make that **unmistakable claim of deity**: “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’*”

Doctrinal / Teaching Points

1. There is only one way of salvation.

Verse 6: “*Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’*” True Christianity does not teach that “all roads lead up the same mountain.” The Bible teaches that there is only **one way** to the one true God, and that way is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Hinduism is not **the** way – it’s not even **a** way.

According to the Bible, a sincere Hindu is on the wrong way. Buddhism is not **the** way, or even **a** way “up the mountain.” A sincere Buddhist is on the wrong way, according to the Bible. Yes, this is a narrow view, but **it is what the Bible teaches!** Do you believe that?

God loves all people, but there is only **one way** of salvation. Other well known verses back this up. Acts 4:12 says, “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*” And 1 Timothy 2:5 says, “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...*”

Is it possible that you are not yet a Christian because you think that there’s more than one way to get to God? Do you think, “As long as I’m sincere, and I’m doing the best that I can, isn’t that certainly a way to God?” I’m sorry, but that’s not what the Bible says. You must come to God in **God’s way!** There is only one way to God - through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One who went to the cross and died for your sins. He is God! He is the only way of salvation!

Notice that the Lord didn’t say just that He **knew** the way, the truth, and the life, or that He **taught** the way, the truth, and the life. He said that **He, personally, is** the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Becoming a Christian is not just buying into a new religion - it’s an entirely new personal **relationship**. Your faith and trust must be centered and focused in **Jesus Christ**, not in a creed or a denomination.

What did the Lord mean when He said that He is the **Truth** and the **Life**, as well as the **Way**? In this verse we see an aspect of His claim to deity. Think this through:

- For there to be truth, there must be standards that define truth.
- For there to be standards, there must be a Standard-setter.

- The ultimate Standard-setter for truth is God Himself.

- So when the Lord said “*I am the truth*,” that is really an aspect of His claim to deity. As God, He is the Truth. He embodied truth. He sets the standard for truth; therefore He is God!

- God is the source of all life. As God, Jesus could claim that He is the Life.

So in this wonderful verse, John 14:6, the Lord not only claimed that He is the only way of salvation and the only way to God - He was also claiming deity! As the Truth and the Life, **He is God**.

2. There is only one God.

In response to Philip’s request, the Lord Jesus said, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’*” There is no doubt here that He was claiming to be God. But notice what He didn’t say. He didn’t say, “I am the Father.” Did you notice that? He said, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father...*” Throughout the passage, the Lord Jesus made a clear distinction between Himself and God the Father. Why? Because God the Father and God the Son are distinct Persons in the Godhead.

In fact, there are three distinct Persons in the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There is one God, but three Persons. God is One in essence or substance, but Three in Persons. Not three “modes,” but three Persons. And notice that in our Lord’s claim to deity, while He definitely claimed to be God, in no way did He blur the distinction between His Father and Himself.

Notice, by the way, that His claim to deity is based on three areas of proof in verses 10-11.

- **His character** (v10): “*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?*”

- **His words** (v10): “*The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority...*”

- **His works** (v10-11): “*But the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*”

“*I am in the Father, and the Father in Me...*” What a claim to be God! Although He is distinct from the Father, He is one with Him. He is God. There is only one God.

Practical Application

Don’t be afraid to ask the Lord your questions!

Both Thomas and Philip came to the Lord with their questions. Thomas was confused, and Philip, like so many of us, just

wanted assurance. He wanted a glimpse of God, and that would be sufficient. Although both Thomas and Philip came to the Lord with their questions, they didn't seem to have a very good attitude when they questioned the Lord - but in spite of that the Lord was gracious and patient as He answered them! He took their hang-ups into account, and He gave them answers that would help them grow in faith and trust.

That's a great practical application for us! Don't we have questions about faith, about what the Bible says, or about what's happening in our lives? Don't be afraid to ask the Lord your questions!

We have to admit that we don't always have a good attitude when we ask our questions. Maybe we're frustrated with tough verses, or we don't like what we think the Bible seems to be saying - we wish God had made it simpler. When we have questions about the Bible or what's going on in our lives, we want more insight – and we want it right away! It would be best to come to the Lord with a good attitude, but even if you have a chip on your shoulder, still bring your questions to the Lord. Don't be afraid. God is gracious! Even when we start off with a negative attitude, He will help us as we bring our problems to Him - and our attitude will change!

I **love** it when my students come to ask me questions after class, because I don't want them to be confused with something I've said. I love to try to clear things up for them! Sometimes students come with a bit of a chip on their shoulder, maybe a little bit of negative attitude - but still, I'd rather have them come that way and get their questions answered. Usually their attitude improves as they learn. This semester a student came to me after my Old Testament Survey class, and he definitely had a negative attitude: "This class is moving too fast! I can't keep up! I can't even keep up with the reading." He was really bent out of shape. Well, after we sat down and talked, and I explained a few things to him, I could see his attitude starting to change - and he has done much better as a result!

That's the way it is in the family of God. God **wants us** to talk to Him! Don't be afraid. Don't stay away because you have a bad attitude, or you're upset about how God is handling your life, or you're frustrated with a difficult passage in the Bible. Bring your questions and requests and problems to the Lord.

Be like Thomas the skeptic and Philip the realist. Both of them had some attitude problems, but they did do the right thing - **they came to the Lord and discussed it with the Lord**. And as a result, they grew in faith.

Don't be afraid to ask the Lord your questions!