

The Newness of Life Lesson 6

Jesus is God

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

1. Review:
 1. The Newness of Life 1-What Just Happened? When Peter used the keys of the kingdom to open the gospel message to three groups.
 2. The Newness of Life 2-Victory in the New Life. God intends you to have victory in this new life and He provided you helps so you CAN be victorious over daily battles.
 3. The Newness of Life 3-Teach us to Pray. The Lord's prayer is a guide for a simple daily

conversation with God. Talking to God daily is critical to our new life.

4. The Newness of Life 4-Victory in Spiritual Warfare. When the devil attacks, we need to remember and to use the authority Jesus gave us over the devil to make him flee.
5. The Newness of Life 5-Trust the Bible. The Bible is a book that answers the deepest questions of mankind about existence and purpose, it was inspired by God, certified by Jesus as scripture, morally superior to all other religious books, historical facts are confirmed through archeology and science, is filled with fulfilled prophecies, and most notably, it is widely available in the world (the all-time best selling book) and continues to influence and change lives today.

II. Introduction

1. One of the most fundamental teachings of the New Testament is that Jesus is the only God.
2. The nation of Israel was born out of a promise that God made to Abraham, that He would give them a land to dwell in and that through Abraham's seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed.
3. Ultimately Abraham's grandson, Jacob had 12 sons from whom came the 12 tribes of Israel, and eventually their descendants received their Promised Land.
4. But the God of Abraham eventually warned them through their leader Moses, that they needed to be careful about moving into the Promised Land because the people groups all around them worshiped their own gods.
5. Their first three commandments regarded giving strict reverence to that one God and His name. The first was:
Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

6. The second was don't make any idols to any god or bow down to worship them.
7. The third was they must always honor and give highest reverence to the name of Yahweh.
8. But because Israel was the only nation that gave strict acknowledgement, worship and honor to just one god, they were always in danger of being influenced by the practices of the neighboring nations who worshiped images, idols, carvings, and honored multiple deities as gods.
9. While Israel was faithful to Yahweh, they were a blessed and victorious people. But when some of Israel's brought in idols and started worshiping them, it was their destruction. In fact, their failure to worship God alone literally brought about the end of their nation in two phases in 722 BC and 586 BC.
10. They turned back to God and for a short span and conquered their Greek rulers and

ruled over their nation to some degree between 167 BC and 63 BC when they were conquered by Rome in 63 BC and Herod the Great became their ruler on behalf of Rome.

11. All that was to say this, God was to be the **only** god worshiped by His people.

12. So what do we know about this one true God of Israel and now the one true God of His New Testament church?

III. He is Creator

1. The first fact about God that we read as soon as we open the Bible is that God is the Creator of everything:

Genesis 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

2. Then in verse 26, we learn that humanity was the centerpiece of that creation:

Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

3. And 15 centuries later, Jesus confirmed those words from Genesis:

Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

4. Another truth that quickly becomes apparent is that God's creation owes

worship to their Creator:

Psalms 100:1-3

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

5. We see the same idea expressed in heaven at the end of days:

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

6. God created us to serve at His pleasure. That's a high calling!

IV. He is one

A. The Shema

1. A second fact that we learn early in scripture is that God is one.
2. There is but one true God and He is one:
Deuteronomy 6:4-5
4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
3. This fact distinguished the Israelites—God’s chosen people—from other people groups in the ancient world.
4. That is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the people who truly followed God throughout history: they had a core belief in a singular God. We see that is also true of His church today.
5. Although God used various names or titles in the Bible such as Jehovah or Yahweh, Lord, Father, King, The Almighty, Savior, Word, Holy Ghost, Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus, Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, The

Holy One. They all refer to the same singular God and His various roles, not permanent divisions or personalities of God.

6. This was one of the core teachings of scripture—part of the basic training—that God told His children to repeat over and over to their children when sitting, walking, lying down, rising up—God is one.

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

- B. How important is the oneness of God?
 1. How important is it that God we recognize the LORD is one LORD? Let us read how Jesus answered that question.

Mark 12:28-30

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment [most important] of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all

the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

2. This was Jesus' answer to the question about what was the most important commandment (Matthew 22:38 says first and great commandment): God is one and we must worship Him with everything within us.
 3. As you can see, Jesus was quoting what we just read in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 about God's nature and our responsibility to Him: Worship one God!
- c. What about other gods identified in scripture?
1. But what about the other "gods" that we read about in the Bible that people were introduced to?

2. Isaiah gave a pretty good explanation about these so-called “gods.” They were man-made.
3. In Isaiah 44:17-19, the prophet tells of a man planted, and grew a cedar, oak, or ash tree, and then cut it down and used part of it for firewood, but with another part he makes a god:

Isa 44:17-18

17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

4. It was not only in Isaiah’s day that people worshiped man-made god’s or idols. People have done it all through the ages.

5. But the danger of ascribing honor and worshiping such idols was revealed by the Apostle Paul:

1 Cor 10:19-20

19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

6. That is why God's people recognize only one God—Jesus Christ—and remove all other idols and images that depict deities or gods for they represent demons and can manifest demons.
7. But what about Jesus? Should we worship Him as God? Let's proclaim an emphatic YES! Jesus made it plain that He was God from above and if we missed the fact that Jesus is our God and Savior, we will die in our sins:

John 8:23-24

23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

8. Paul revealed that even the fathers of Judaism of the Old Testament actually were worshiping Jesus as the only God over all:
Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
 9. In other words, scriptures declare that Jesus is that one God from heaven and you better believe it!
- D. Only One Savior and Creator
1. God declared that He was the only Savior, that He was a jealous God, and would not tolerate His people honoring any other Savior.

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

2. But consider that truth alongside something an angel from God said in His announcement about the birth of Jesus:

Luke 2:10-11

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

3. Was that angel confused? Was he aware of what God had spoken to Isaiah that there was only one Savior, and that God was a jealous God who would not tolerate worship of another Savior?

4. That angel knew there was only one Savior—the invisible God of eternity—but now that invisible God became visible and was born in a human baby.

5. And it is also true that there is only one Creator of all things:

Isaiah 44:6, 24

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

6. But we also read that Jesus is the Creator of all things:

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

7. Paul acknowledged that this was a mystery from the beginning, but that God revealed that mystery: Jesus was God Himself doing the creating.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,

visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

- E. Who is the only wise God?
1. The teaching that God is one is a foundational teaching of scripture.
 2. Moses, the one who spoke with God on the mountain, believed in one God who existed as one entity, being, or person, when he wrote down God's words in the Book of Deuteronomy.
 3. The scriptures teach that He is the only God; He is the only Creator; and He is the only Savior.
 4. The apostle Paul and Jude the brother of Jesus both wrote letters about Jesus and included this phrase about Him: "the only wise God."

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal,

- immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
5. *Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*
 6. God is one and His name is Jesus.
 7. The Old Testament LORD and the New Testament Jesus Christ are one and the same; not two Gods and never identified as two different persons.
 8. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the image of the one person, the invisible God of the Old Testament.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and

upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

9. This made Jesus a problem to Jews who knew there was only one God but refused to accept that Jesus was God.

F. Jesus claimed equality with God

1. The first and second commandments didn't allow worship of any other person but God, but Jesus challenged the Jews to carefully search the scriptures because they revealed that He was God:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

2. But instead, most religious leaders were offended at Jesus' claim because they saw Jesus simply as the boy next door who grew up in the home of Joseph the carpenter,

whose kids played with their kids (Mark 6:2-3).

3. When Jesus claimed equality with God, they rejected Him as a heretic:

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

- v. Conclusion: Who is the I am?

1. *Ex 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

2. God revealed His name to Moses: “I AM” meaning the always existing, self-existent One with no beginning and no Creator.

3. In Hebrew it is the four letters Yod, Hei, Vav, Hei. This is called the **Tetragrammaton**.

[image]

4. Some translations render that name as Jehovah, or Yahweh, but most often, in our English Bibles, it comes through as LORD.
5. The Jews highly revered and respect that name, “I AM” and would not even speak it out of reverence. But Jesus used that name to describe Himself and used the **[slide]** **Greek version, ego emi** a number of times:
John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
6. His audience understood the significance of this claim to the name of God and sought to stone Him considering it blasphemy.
John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.
7. For those who missed that truth about Jesus, they took up stones to kill Him.
8. But for you and I seeking to follow God in the newness of life, we recognize that there is but one God and His name is Jesus!