

THE WORD

John 1:3-5

Introduction and Review

The Word is Preexistent (John 1:1a)

The Word is Relational (John 1:1b, 2)

The Word is God (John 1:1c)

1. The Word is Creator (John 1:3)

A) The Word is uncreated

- > **All** things were made by Him
- > Without Him **nothing** was made that was mad

B) The Word is distinguishable from His creation

- > Creation reveals the glory of God
- > Creation is not God

C) The Word was immediately, or directly, involved with creation

- > The eternal God, who determined to create all things, did so according to His plan
Therefore we are not surprised to hear that what He created was good – very good
- > John may have intended to head off early Gnostic thinking in relationship to Jesus Christ

What is Gnosticism?

2. The Word is Self-Existent (John 1:4a)

A) In Him was Life

- > The word was implies ‘wasness’ in contrast with “becameness” (John 5:19-27)

B) This Life does not refer to physical life but spiritual life – zoe not bios

- > John always uses life in reference to a quality of existence – the kind of life that man has when God rules in his life (John 10:10)
- > It is important to connect this thought to the Great Story of the Bible

The first Adam brought death into the world

The last Adam is Life and brings life into the world

3. The Word is All-Powerful (John 1:4b-5)

A) The Life found in the Word was the Light of men

- > Light is used to describe God in the Old Testament (Psalm 27:1; 36:5-9)
- > Light is also used in reference to the coming Messiah (Isaiah 9:1-7 – esp. 2)
- > Light speaks of absolute purity and righteousness (1 John 1:5)

B) This Light comes into a world overcome by darkness

- > John understands darkness to be a spiritual status that stands in opposition to the Light (John 3:1:19; 1 John 1:6)
- > Consider John's emphasis upon the Word, Jesus, being Light (John 8:12; 12:35, 46)

C) The Darkness could not overcome the Light (John 1:5b)

- > Define the word

Overcome can mean to comprehend intellectually or understand

Overcome can also mean to overcome physically

Those in darkness recognized the threat that Jesus posed and determined to kill Him (John 11:45-53)

- > The Light cannot be overcome by the Darkness

They tried to put out the Light

Through threats of death (John 5:16-18)

Through accusations (John 7:20)

Through scheming (John 8:2-6)

Through threatening the people (John 9:18-22)

Through bribing one of His disciples (John 12:21-27)

Through alignment with Caesar and Rome (John 19:12-16)

And when Jesus died the darkness rejoiced because they believed that they had finally extinguished the Light.

But the darkness could not overcome the Light (1 Cor 15:55-57)

APPLICATION:

In the story of the first Adam sin plunged the world into death and darkness

In the story of the last Adam – Jesus Christ, Life and Light are brought back into the world

John has set out in the first 5 verses of his gospel to identify the Word – Jesus, as the Son of God

John's gospel calls us out of the darkness and into the Light. (1 John 1:5-7)