

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the center of the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The overall mood is one of divine inspiration or enlightenment.

BOOK *of* JOHN

DEBATING ABOUT JESUS – PART 1

JOHN 7:14-36

Note that this very public debate about the Lord Jesus involved three different groups of people. We will look at them in depth next week.

- ***THE FIRST GROUP*** were the Jewish leaders, “*the Jews*” who lived in Jerusalem and were attached to the temple ministry.
- ***THE SECOND GROUP*** would be “*the people*” (**John 7:12, 20, 31-32**). This would be the festival crowd that had come to Jerusalem to worship.

- ***THE THIRD GROUP*** was composed of the Jews who resided in Jerusalem (**John 7:25**). They, of course, would have likely sided with the religious leaders.
- The religious leaders “*kept seeking*” Jesus while the crowd kept arguing whether He was a good man or a deceiver.
- The truth is Jesus is either who and what He claims to be, or *He is a liar*.
- *What does the evidence prove?*

JESUS' CREDENTIALS

When Jesus began to teach openly in the temple, the debate shifted to *His doctrine*. **John 7:14-19**

- The Bible says *Jesus taught with authority* while the scribes and Pharisees taught *from authorities*, quoting all the famous rabbis.
- He had already made it clear that He and the Father were one in works and judgment. **John 5:17-30**
- Now He claimed His Words also came from the Father.

TEST IT AND TRY IT

- How do you know anything is real? Use it! See if it works or is true.
- God's Word proves itself true to those who will sincerely do it.
- God's Word is never wrong . . . not ever.
- In **verses 16-17** Jesus is basically saying, "Try it! If it works, it must be true!" Thus suggesting that if it does not work it must be false.

THE TEST THAT KILLS FALSEHOOD

This kind of a test leads to problems for cults. Why?

- You can test their teaching and find out it's not true.

The world, all cults and other world religions debate who Jesus is!

- To them, Jesus is less than God, no more than a prophet, and definitely not the savior of **John 14:6**.
- ***To us, we believe what the Bible declares: Jesus was and is actually God, and His resurrection proves it!***

A still life photograph featuring a glass of red wine and two loaves of bread. The glass is partially filled with a deep red liquid and sits on a red and white striped cloth. Two golden-brown loaves of bread are positioned in the foreground, one slightly behind the other. The background is dark, making the subjects stand out. The text 'Communion' and 'The Lord's Supper' is overlaid in a white, italicized serif font.

Communion
The Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:17-24