

THE ARGUMENT

BY: BRAD CULLEN – APRIL 17, 2003

That's it!

One argument upon which any varieties of "Christians" seem to get hung up is the identity of Jesus Christ. Who was/is Jesus Christ? The arguments surround different interpretations of a variety of Bible passages. This writer does not purport to be a scholar, but rather a student who asks God's own Holy Spirit to guide and direct him according to the promise asserted by one of the writer's of the Gospels to have come from Jesus' own mouth, i.e., "I will send you Holy Spirit and He will lead you into all truth."

Based on some words purported to have also come out the mouth of Jesus, the author of the Gospel of Mark quoted Jesus as saying that anyone that denies what comes from Holy Spirit is guilty of a sin for which there is no forgiveness. So, is Holy Spirit guiding this writer (me) into all truth, or am I following a different spirit? ...a question with some very serious implications.

If Holy Spirit is, indeed, guiding what I am about to write and someone decides to make a judgment that what I write is demonic in origin and that judgment is wrong, then according to Mark, Jesus said such judgment is "blasphemy against God's own Holy Spirit."

Not wanting you to stumble, I prefer that you read no further – or be extremely cautious about how you treat the following material. For, you see, I believe that what I am about to write is guided by God's own Spirit.

The writer of the Gospel of John, a Jew, a self-proclaimed, intimately close friend chosen by Jesus, opens his Gospel with these words: "In the beginning was the complete and full expression of God" (from the Gr. Logos and generally translated as 'Word'), "which lived among us. He" (this 'Word') "created the universe and everything in it. Nothing was created that was not created by, for and through him."

Later on in this same opening chapter... John says: "Anyone who receives him," (here comes some hair splitting). Is John stating that anyone who has an intellectual belief that Jesus in some pre-existent state created everything is "receiving?" Or, is the more simplistic, inviting Jesus to come in and take over one's own life as "Lord and Savior" – is this latter what is meant by "receiving?"

The subject is that all who do receive him (whatever that may mean) "have the authority and right to become a child of God" ...and, by so receiving, have the right and the authority to become "joint heirs" with Jesus as the only begotten Son of God.

Here is what I believe that God's own Holy Spirit is saying... The Creator of the Universe and everything in it was a Spirit, God's own Holy Spirit... that same Spirit became a man... the Man known to the Western world as Jesus, the Christ. The honest seeker after truth can find any number of passages of Scripture that indicate this is reality and what the writer of the New Testament book usually referred to as "Hebrews" meant with, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

If you are interested in seeing these Scriptures... I'll be glad to show you chapter and verse. Want to argue? Not interested. Feel the need to tell me where I am wrong? Not interested. Could I be wrong? Yep. Don't care. That's it.

There are those who would like me to expand on the Scriptural basis for the foregoing. I keep hearing a "no" in my spirit and believe I know why... an intellectual belief system is fed by Scriptural references and affords little if any power. Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe... they will speak in new languages that they did not learn by natural means, they will cast out demons, they will heal many different diseases..."

I happen to believe (it doesn't really matter what I "believe"... one definition given: "intellectually acquiesce to") these things are true because I have personally experienced them in my own life. I experienced them because I took some things literally that Jesus purportedly said. I believe they were instructions... and I followed them. They work.

You need nothing from me... however I am willing to share with anyone. Again, I am not interested in argument. I am not interested in being anyone's teacher. If you would like to receive Jesus' own instructions that I took literally... and received freely... I will be glad to share them with you – also freely.

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