

John 1:14-18 - Eternally Begotten, Not Made

Intro - The title of today's message is taken from the Nicene Creed (flap of bulletin). That early creed cleared up a controversy about the person of Jesus Christ. A popular preacher ^(Arius) was teaching that there was a time when Jesus did not exist...that at some point the Son of God came into being because He was begotten. As people are thinking about Jesus' birth in this season, we need to be clear that Jesus' birth is not when He began. Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem, nor did He become the Son of God because He was born. There are many *myths, legends & religious figures* with a "birthday" of December 25th - *Mithras, Horus, Tammuz, Sol Invictus* (sun god) - those "gods" came into being when they were "*miraculously (re)born.*" We do not know what day Jesus was born but we do know He did not come into being when He was born. Jesus is the *only begotten & the eternally begotten* Son but He was "*begotten, not made.*" Jesus has always been the eternal Son of God. There was never a time when He wasn't the only begotten Son of the Father. Jesus was the Son of God before He was sent to Bethlehem. Him being sent announced who He already was. John 3:16 tells us about God's Son and God's love. God loved world so He gave the Son of His love to be their Savior. He sent the Firstborn so we could be forgiven. He gave the only begotten Son so we could become sons. Jesus being the only begotten Son is essential to Him and for our faith. Today we address Jesus as: *Son, Firstborn, Begotten & Beloved*

SON

- Jesus did not become the Son of God because He was born. Jesus has always been The SON
 - God sent His Son to be born. Gal. 4:4
 - Jesus' birth was not a beginning but a declaring. It announced who He already was.
The resurrection declared Him the Son ; it didn't make Him...Transfiguration showed...Incarnation announced
- God has revealed Himself to us as Father & Son.
 - One God in interpersonal relationship between distinct united Persons
- That God has a Son is not just a New Testament teaching
 - Proverbs 30:2-4
 - God is hard to understand but we can somewhat grasp "*Father & Son*"
 - This common relationship is reflective of the Godhead
 - Psalm 2:7-8 Psalm 2:10-12
 - God has a Son who inherits all. All earthly rulers must worship the Son.
 - Isaiah 9:6 The Son ^(who has eternally existed) is given as a child to be born.
 - The Son is the mighty God, everlasting Father....
- The Son is just like the Father because the Son is of the same substance as the Father.
 - John 14:8-10a
 - Col. 1:15 - image of the invisible God Heb. 1:2-3 - exact representation
 - Jesus is one with His Father - John 10:30, 38 (meditate on 10:30-39)
 - The Son is equal to His Father - John 5:18
- The Father & Son go together. You cannot have one without the other. Reject one = reject both
 - 1 John 2:22-23 John 14:6 The Son is essential

FIRSTBORN

- Jesus being “Firstborn” means that He is #1 and holds the place of preeminence
 - Col. 1:15-16
- Firstborn also implies that there are others after Him
 - Col. 1:18 Jesus’ resurrection guarantees our resurrection.
 - Jesus is first and we follow after
- God’s *Firstborn* is fully God. The eternal God who was born in time.
 - Heb. 1:6 The Firstborn is born and worshiped by angels
 - Heb. 1:8 God the Father calls His Son “God”
 - The “*Firstborn*” sits on the throne to rule
 - The “*Firstborn*” is King of the universe (Luke 1:32-33)
- The church is called the “church of the Firstborn” Heb. 12:23
 - We believe in Jesus Christ, confess Him as Lord and Firstborn from dead.
 - Christians follow Him who is First
 - Jesus is without equal or rival. He is preeminent and Firstborn

BEGOTTEN

- ❖ The eternal Son, who is Firstborn, is also called the “Only Begotten”
 - This means that Jesus is special, but it also means more than He is just special
 - Some translations say “*one and only Son*” to avoid the dilemma and connotation of “begotten”
 - Begotten = The Son exists in the Father and from the Father (John 5:26)
 - The Son is eternally begotten without a beginning. Eternal generation
 - Eternally begotten before time by the Father and in time within Mary
- ❖ Jesus is the Word of God
 - The Word was with God and is God ^{John 1:1} but the Word emanates from God
 - Words are an expression from someone...and extension of themselves
 - We understand God from His Word...His Son that proceeded from God
- ❖ Jesus is begotten like light is begotten from the source. (A distinction without separation)
 - God is Light and Jesus is the Light...the radiance of Gods glory (“...Light from Light”)
 - John 1:14 The Word becomes flesh
 - We see the glory of God in the Begotten of God.
 - God veiled in flesh makes Him assessable to sinners. The Begotten becomes a Light we can handle
- ❖ The Begotten came after John the Baptist ^(born) but existed before John the Baptist.
 - John 1:15 The Begotten was born but existed before. Eternally begotten, not made
- ❖ The Begotten = beloved John 1:18
 - No one has ever seen God, so God became flesh – (the image of the invisible God)
 - The Begotten of God can explain God because He is God & intimately knows God
 - The Son is in the bosom of the Father
 - The Son is one with the Father and beloved by the Father
 - The Father loves the Son - John 3:35 John 17:24-26
 - God is love – inner-Trinitarian love “This is My beloved Son...”
 - The Begotten is of the same essence and substance as the Father
- ❖ John 3:16