

BACK TO BASICS: WHO IS JESUS?

Scripture used: [John 1:1-5 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued the summer series Back to Basics, reminding us of the foundational truths of the Christian faith found in the Apostle's Creed, which are building blocks for living a transformative life as a Jesus-follower. This week, we examine how in the Apostles' Creed Jesus is identified as "God's only son, our Lord." Jesus has full authority over our lives and destiny.

KEY POINTS

1. We are in the season of graduation. A commencement address can transform a life. When he was finishing 8th grade, Pastor Hurmon's grand aunt told him with great solemnity: "You need to get to know Jesus for yourself." The words made a deep impression on him; it was the best commencement address of Pastor Hurmon's life! In the same way, the Apostle John tells us he was there for every part of Jesus' life, from birth to the horrendous events between Jesus' death and resurrection, to Jesus' time on earth after resurrection. John knew Jesus, and he wrote the Gospel of John because he knew that everyone needs to get to know Jesus for themselves.
2. The first thing to know: Jesus is fully God. Per the Nicene Creed, Jesus is one being with the Father. Jesus is the source of creation, of life and light for the cosmos and the human world. He is a light that darkness cannot extinguish. [Colossians 1:15](#) - Jesus is the visible image of an invisible God. In Jesus, God measures down. He comes down to our level. In Jesus, God comes to love us. God comes looking for us, in order to let us know that He is the source of unconditional love.
3. Pastor Hurmon was an unruly child while growing up in Louisiana. But his behavior reflected his brokenness and wounds, not his true character. Life can be cruel and brutal, even without specific evil intent by others. God can undo what is left by cruel experiences. He is the source of light and life for all – not just for creation, but for our human lives.
4. Just as importantly, Jesus is fully human. [John 1:14](#) - Jesus became a human being, the source of ultimate truth and grace. This is the essence of the term "incarnation"; it means to become flesh, to become fully like us. In Jesus, God understands our weaknesses, temptations, and challenges. Jesus is like the "Undercover Boss" who comes to dwell with us to fully understand and empathize with our daily experience. In doubt, in hunger, in pain - Jesus enters into our experience. He bears our infirmities and carries our diseases. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan for redemption and salvation for everyone. We can become His follower, learning how to do life with Him, as we say yes to the invitation of God to become God's children. Jesus gives us a priceless graduation gift: life, that death cannot destroy.
5. Pastor Hurmon shared this quote from the late pastor Tim Keller: "When Jesus Christ came, he came to live the life we should have lived; and die the death we should die. He lived a perfect life and therefore earned God's blessings. But then at the end of his life, he went to the cross and took the curse that we deserve. He earned the blessing of a fully obedient human being, but then he took the curse and punishment of imperfect, disobedient human beings. Which means that when you become a Christian, when you put your faith in Jesus, all of your sins and what you deserve fall on Jesus. But then, all of his blessings, what Jesus deserves, comes to you. And God treats you as if you have done everything that Jesus Christ has done."

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How have you thought about who Jesus is, or who Jesus is to you, at different times in your life? How do all of those perspectives of Jesus connect to how you think of him now?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [John 1:1-18 \(NLT\)](#). How does John depict Jesus as fully God and fully human? What impact does it make on our lives that Jesus is fully God and fully human? Is there any part of your life that you feel like God doesn't really "get"? Do you tend to think of God as far off or very near? Why? How do you think God wants us to respond to Jesus as the one who is both fully God and fully human, even in the way we live our lives this week?
- 3) **DO** - Continue to read and reflect on [the Apostles' Creed](#). Respond to Jesus as Lord of all in the way you live your life this week - in the choices you make, how you interact with people, and how you respond to adversity. Join us next Sunday as we continue our message series, Back to Basics!