

A PATTERN FOR CHRISTIANITY

John 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION

- A. Searching for Patterns.
 - 1. Making a dress, decorating a room, building a house.
 - 2. We want patterns which will make sewing, cooking or building easy.
 - 3. We want patterns to be as simple as possible.
- B. It is no different in the church.
 - 1. It seems we want the quickest and easiest way to do anything.
 - 2. The Gospel of John provides for us 4 principles for New Testament Christianity.
- C. But first, one truth:
 - 1. Above all else, Christianity centers on Christ.
 - 2. The church is important, but Christianity is not “church-ianity.”
 - 3. Morality is important, but Christianity is not just morality.
 - 4. Doing good to others is important, but Christianity is not just benevolence.
 - 5. Christianity encompasses everything Christ!

I. KNOWING THE TRUTH...

- A. Christ Was Both Human and Divine.
 - 1. He is “the Word,” vs. 1.
 - a. The divine Logos, Word.
 - b. Logos was used to express Jesus’ powerful preeminent position in heaven before He came to earth.
 - 2. He was “with God” and “was God,” vs. 1.
 - a. He shares the traits or characteristics of deity with the Father.
 - b. The Father is God; but Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is also God.
 - i. *“Before Abraham was born, I Am...”* John 8:58.
 - ii. John 14:7, *“If you know Me, you know the Father.”*
 - iii. John 12:45, *“He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.”*
 - 3. He was “in the beginning...with God,” vs. 2.
 - a. He did not begin His existence when He was born in Bethlehem.
 - b. He existed from all eternity.
 - 4. He was involved in creation, just as God was.
 - a. *“Apart from Him nothing came into being,”* vs. 3.
 - b. *“Let Us make man in Our own image,”* Gen. 1:26.
 - c. The self He [God] addressed included the divine Word.
 - 5. He was and is the Light and the source of life for all.
 - a. Apart from Him, there is no light and no hope of life.
 - b. Jesus said, *“I am the Light of the world,”* John 8:12.
 - c. Jn. 6:47-48, *“I am the bread of life.”*
 - 6. He was, and is, often rejected.
 - a. *“The Light shines in the darkness,”* but the “darkness” rejects it, vs. 5, 11.
 - b. Made clear that Jesus was not accepted by all, John 6:66.
 - 7. The same Jesus Christ who was the divine Word, became flesh.
 - a. *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,”* vs. 14.
 - b. Jesus walked among mankind, composed of flesh and blood.
 - c. He was no mere man – not even an extraordinary man like prophets.
 - d. He was the divine Son of God, God in the flesh, who had existed from all eternity with God and as God!

- B. In this fact lies our hope: Jesus Christ was both divine and human!
 - 1. Christianity is centered on this truth.
 - 2. And since it is true, Christianity is everything.

II. PROCLAIMING CHRIST.

- A. He is the Divine Son of God and the Lamb of God.
 - 1. John the Baptist.
 - a. A prophet “*sent from God,*” vs. 6.
 - b. He came to “*bear witness to the Light,*” vs. 7-8.
 - c. He testified to Christ’s deity, vs. 15.
 - d. He denied being the Christ, but claimed to be the forerunner, vs. 20, 23.
 - 2. Jesus, the Lamb of God, vs. 29.
 - a. John proclaimed Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
 - b. God showed it to him by the Holy Spirit, vs. 33.
 - c. He proclaimed Jesus, not only the Son of God, who would rule over His kingdom.
 - d. But also, the sacrificial Lamb of God to die for the sins of mankind, Mt. 26:28.
 - e. Without His sacrifice and His death, we would have no hope of salvation.
 - i. Rom. 5:6
 - ii. 1 Pet. 1:18-19
 - f. This was the proclamation of Peter at Pentecost, Acts 2.
 - 3. *This is the same proclamation we make!*

III. LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

- A. Christianity, a Personal Relationship with Christ.
 - 1. Requires Jesus’ invitation.
 - a. To Andrew and [John], “*Come, and ... see,*” vs. 37-39.
 - b. To Philip [after finding him, vs. 43], “*Follow Me.*”
 - c. Today, the same invitation, Mt. 11:28-30.
 - 2. Acceptance of His invitation.
 - a. Today, many will reject His invitation, John 1:11-12.
 - b. Must accept His invitation on His terms.
 - i. Believe in Him as God’s Son, Jn. 3:16.
 - ii. Confess their faith or trust in Him, Rom. 10:9-10.
 - iii. Repent of their sins, Acts 17:30.
 - iv. Be baptized for forgiveness of sins, Acts 2:38.
 - c. Depends on individuals to make the right choice.
 - 3. Maintaining the relationship with Christ.
 - a. Not just worship services.
 - b. It is attaining to and maintaining a relationship with Christ.
 - c. Three years with Christ...and more (until death).

IV. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS.

- A. What Happened After They Discovered Jesus?
 - 1. They went about telling others.
 - a. Andrew tells his brother, Peter, vs. 40-41.
 - b. Philip tells Nathanael, vs. 45.
 - 2. John’s Gospel.
 - a. A reminder that the church is about telling the good news of Christ.
 - b. A challenge to share it with others.

CLOSING

- A. A Simple Progression.
 - 1. The truth about Christ – He is God in the flesh.
 - 2. Proclaimed by John the Baptist.
 - 3. Individuals responded to the truth and became disciples.
 - 4. Those who chose to follow Jesus went out and told others.
- B. The story was repeated over and over.
 - 1. Their enthusiasm for telling the story explains how the church multiplied and spread throughout the world.
 - 2. And the church today will grow when its members act like Andrew and Philip.