

## **I AM Pt 1**

### **“Life in the Light of Love”**

#### **WHAT DOES JESUS REVEAL**

- How did Jesus see Himself?
- How did He describe Himself?

#### **John 8:12 NIV**

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

#### **John 8:57-59 NIV**

57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I am!**” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

This is a direct reference to God introducing Himself to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3.

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.*

*That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.*

*You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)*

#### **SUMMARY**

- ➔ Jesus is the Light of the World because Jesus is visible image of the Invisible God.
- ➔ If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

#### **John 1:4-5 NIV**

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Isaiah 9:2 NIV**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**DISRUPTIVE LIGHT**

But darkness has advantages. Darkness can also be something that we depend upon.

- Provides COVER.
- Provides CONTROL.

**John 3:19-21 NIV**

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

We don't want to be seen. But this isn't fully accurate.

What we would prefer to say is that we would prefer to be seen on our terms.

*Evil deeds are measured by their dependency on darkness and their contribution to disorder. When we prevent our motives from being seen or we refuse to understand them, we are dependent upon the darkness. When we minimize or justify our will and ways over others to avoid responsibility or complicity, we are using the darkness and contributing to the disintegrating of things.*

**LIVES BY THE TRUTH**

Truth is a relational faithfulness to know and to be known-- the reality of all that we think and feel and hope and want.

**What does it look like to live in the light of God's love?****LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF LOVE**

- Are there things you keep hidden?
- Are there areas where you conceal in order to control?
- Would you be willing to allow the beauty of God's love to begin to define your life?