

**In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

John 1:1 (ESV)

**Prologue to Easter:  
The Significance of “The Word”  
(John 1:1-13)**

# John 1:1-5 (ESV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** He was in the beginning with God.

**3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

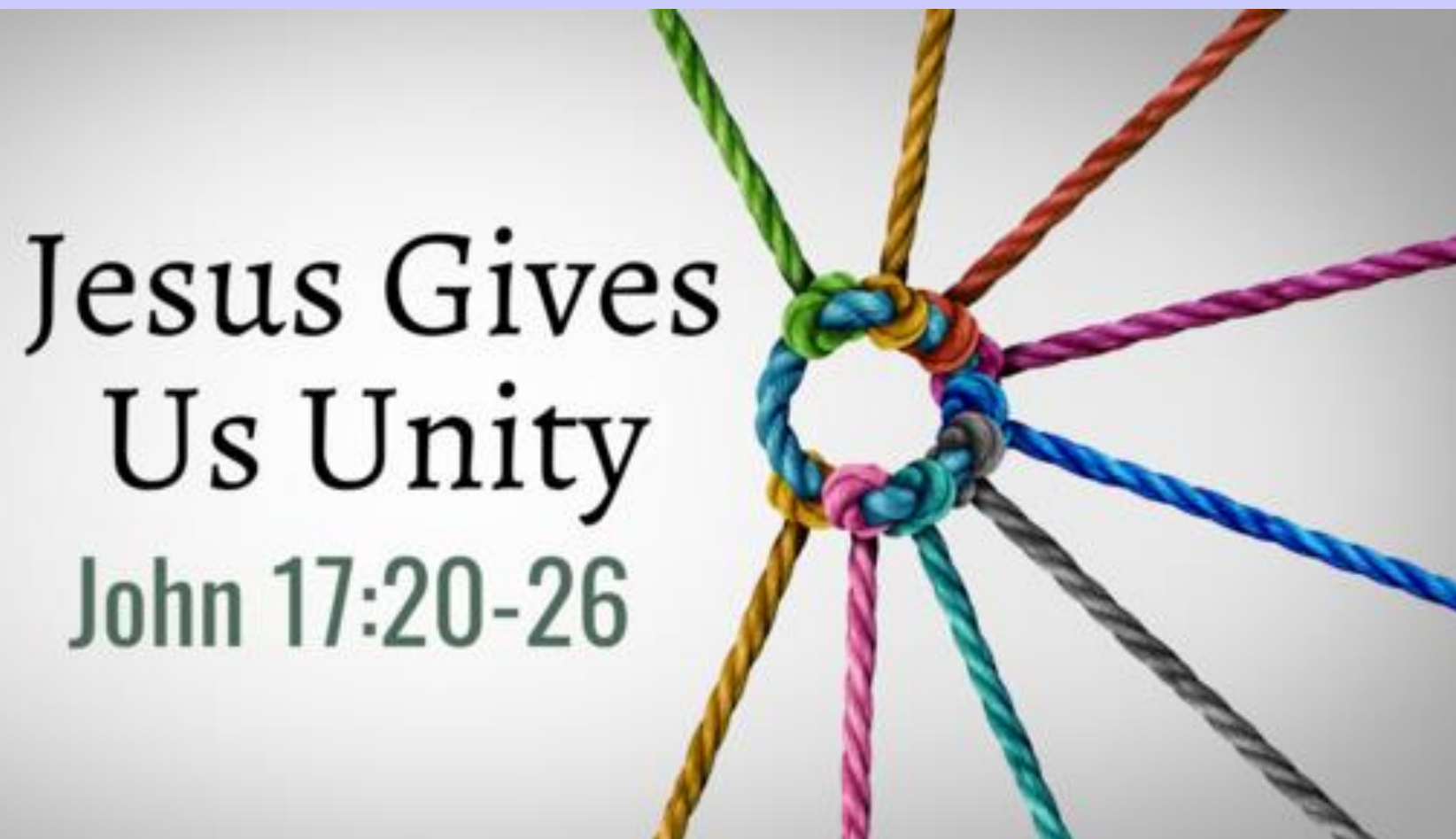
# Summary from Last Week

- **Twentieth-century Post-structuralist philosophy:** What we know as “reality” is simply what we as a society agree it is. Therefore, those who believe in an absolute and knowable ultimate source of reality (such as “god”) are guilty of “logocentrism.”
- **“Logocentrism”:** initially used as a term of criticism

# Celebrating “Cheesehead”



# Celebrating “Logocentrism”



Jesus Gives  
Us Unity

John 17:20-26

# I. The Person of the “Word” (John 1:1-2)

## A. The Beginning (John 1:1a)

--“**In the beginning** was the Word” (John 1:1a)

--“**In the beginning**, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)

--Therefore, a stable “center” to the universe did in fact exist, and it existed well BEFORE human beings were on the scene.

# I. The Person of the “Word” (John 1:1-2)

## B. The Logos (John 1:1a)

- **Christian faith is built upon the belief that “the center holds”**
- **“And he [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together”**  
(Colossians 1:17)
- <sup>16</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD,  
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,  
a stone, a tested stone,  
a precious **cornerstone**, of a **sure foundation** (Isaiah 28:16)
- <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a **foundation** other than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ** (I Cor. 3:11)

# I. The Person of the “Word” (John 1:1-2)

## C. Trinitarianism (John 1:1b)

- **Jesus as the visible aspect of God:**
- <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15a)
- <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:8-9)



# I. The Person of the “Word” (John 1:1-2)

## D. Jesus is God (John 1:1c)

- “and the Word was God”
- “God” vs. New World Translation (Jehovah Witnesses) “a God”
- <sup>19</sup> For in him **all the fullness of God** was pleased to dwell (Colossians 1:19)
- <sup>9</sup> For in him **the whole fullness of deity** dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9)
- <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “**My Lord and my God!**” (John 20:26-28)

# I. The Person of the “Word” (John 1:1-2)

## E. An Internal Summary (John 1:2)

- **Completes a chiasmus**

1 In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
**and the Word was God.**  
with God.

2 He was in the beginning

## II. The Work of the “Word” (John 1:3)

- <sup>16</sup> **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16)
- <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> **and through him to reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:20)

### III. The Effect of the “Word” (John 1:4)

- <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was **the light** of men (John 1:4)
- Jesus as the source of life, identity, and happiness when we place Him in the center of our lives.

# John 1:6-9 (ESV)

- <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
- <sup>9</sup> **The true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

## IV. The Power of the “Word” (John 1:5, 10-11)

- <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. [The people rejected and crucified Him.]
- Jesus defeated evil through His death on the cross.

# Saul on the Road to Damascus



# The Word overpowers Saul's evil intentions (Acts 22:4-8)

- <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.
- <sup>6</sup> “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup> And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>8</sup> And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’



## V. The *Transforming* Power of the “Word”

- Not only did Jesus defeat evil on the cross, but He can also *transform* the evil-doer to be His disciple.

## V. The *Transforming* Power of the “Word” (Acts 22:9-11)

- <sup>9</sup> Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.
- <sup>10</sup> And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’
- <sup>11</sup> And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

## IV. The *Transforming* Power of the “Word” (Acts 22:12-16)

- <sup>12</sup> “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup> came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.
- <sup>14</sup> And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.
- <sup>16</sup> **And now why do you wait?** Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

# Born Again!

## John 1:12-13

- <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God,
- <sup>13</sup> **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.



**Let Us Pray**

