

Episode #506 – How to Know God 7: Knowing the Son

I. The “Knowing God in the Word Radio Program” is for the purpose of helping listeners to fulfill the greatest need we have as believers – to know God.

II. We have seen that getting to know God is our greatest need, and the way to enter into relationship with and to please God is through faith. What we need regarding faith is to believe the record God gave of His Son. We have studied the glorious reality that Jesus is the Christ, and the marvelous truth of the Father and the Son. Today we will further consider what we mean when we say that Jesus is the Son.

III. The Only-begotten Son.

- A. John 1:14. Christ is called the “only-begotten” Son. Does this mean that He was “begotten,” that is, a created being?
- B. Hebrews 11:17. Isaac was not Abraham’s only begotten son. Ishmael was his older half-brother! Genesis 16:15. Moreover he had more sons through his wife Keturah after Sarah’s death, Genesis 25:1-4. So something is wrong with the translation “only begotten.”
- C. The Greek for “only begotten” is *monogenes*. Yet the proper word for “only begotten” should be *monogenetos* (coming from *mono* = alone and *genetos* = generated or born). *Monogenes* comes from *mono* = alone and *ginomai* = to be. “To be alone” means UNIQUE.
- D. An only child is indeed unique. Luke 7:12, Luke 8:42, Luke 9:38.
- E. Yet a child can be unique for other reasons. Isaac was unique because he was the son of promise. Genesis 21:9-12. This had nothing to do with generation or begetting.
- F. Consider, then, the glorious truth of the unique Son of God.
 1. John 1:14. Christ’s glory was as the unique One of the Father.
 2. John 1:18. The unique Son is in the bosom of the Father.
 3. John 3:16. God gave His unique Son.
 4. John 3:18. One who will not believe in the unique Son of God is condemned before he even comes into judgment!
 5. I John 4:9. God sent His unique Son into the world that we might live through Him. I pray that all my listeners know that Son and believe.

IV. Sonship – the Hebrew idea.

- A. We use the word “Son” to mean a male child. The Bible uses “son” this way as well.
 1. Genesis 3:16: the first occurrence.
 2. Genesis 5:4: sons and daughters.
- B. A “son” can mean more than this however. Consider Genesis 6:2. Did God have male children? No! These were angels. I believe this means they were representatives of God, that is, His appointed rulers. They had authority over various things in His creation. Job 1:6.
- C. Genesis 7:6. Noah was a son of six hundred years. How can one be a son of years? But consider that, for the year you are a certain age, you are then a representative of that particular age.
- D. Genesis 18:7. Abraham fetched a son of cattle. This was a representative of the cattle family.
- E. Where did this idea of a “son” being a representative come from? From the family business structure of the day. Your family was your business. The father (patriarch)

- was the CEO. The person who would take over the family when he could no longer do the job was the son. Genesis 15:2.
- F. For this reason, the Hebrews would use “son” to describe the kind of character a person represented. Deuteronomy 13:13: sons of Belial. Acts 4:36: son of consolation. That meant a representative.
- G. For this reason, we can see that Jesus as the Son of God is Jesus as the Representative of God. Jesus is visible form of the invisible God. He represents God to the physical, material universe. In other words, as the Son of God He is God in human form.
- H. Many believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The reason John wrote his gospel is so that you and I would believe it as well. John 20:30-31. Do we believe this?
- V. Conclusion: Jesus is the unique Son of God, not begotten by Him, but rather the visible, physical, knowable, understandable expression of the invisible, immaterial, unknowable, impossible to understand God. If we are to know God, we must know Him through the Lord Jesus. He is truly the Son of God. Do we believe it?