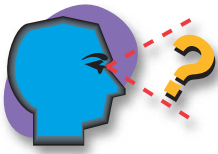
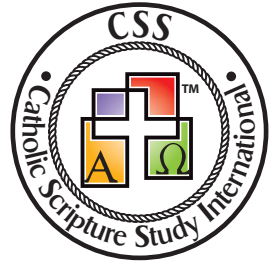


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 8:12-59

1. Jesus isn't claiming to be *a* light but *the* light of the world. This is another way of saying he is divine. He is the Source of all light. The light of Christ enlightens our minds. His light pierces the darkness and uncovers sin. In his light our sins are revealed and we can choose to see them, repent and follow him with his light guiding us or to stay in darkness and die in our sin. By stating that he is the Light of the world, Jesus is saying that he offers his Divine revelation to all people for their salvation, not just the Jews. "I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)
2. Jesus knew the Law. In chapter five (John 5:31) we saw that he named four witnesses: John the Baptist's teachings, his Father's words from the clouds after his baptism, his miracles and the Scriptures. This time he cites himself and his Father as all the witness he needs.
3. Jesus was referring to his death and resurrection. He was going to the Father in heaven. He was offering them eternal life if they would only accept him. They refused to listen; therefore they would die in their sin. This means that their pride would keep them out of heaven unless they repented and accepted Jesus, their only hope for salvation.
4. To be "of this world" is to be worldly and concerned with things of the world rather than spiritual things. The people that were rejecting Jesus were more concerned about pleasing man than God. They were concerned with things of the flesh, not the spirit. Our spiritual life is what truly matters. "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" (Mark 8:36)
5. Jesus reminds them that he has told them all these things already and that they should believe the one that sent him for whom he is speaking. He also tells them that after they have crucified him ("lifted up the Son of man") that they will know that "I am he", meaning he is the Messiah – the very one that they (the Jews) have been awaiting.
6. Truth is not a concept but a person. Jesus is truth and only Jesus can free us from the bondage of sin and offer us salvation. He is the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Jesus. (John 14:6) Truth is also, for John, a way of life. That is why he speaks of "doing the truth". The Jews' defiant response shows that they did not understand him and are still thinking carnally.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

7. Yes. The Jews had been under the rule of many nations in the past including Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. And at this time they were under Roman rule, and were actually of the mindset and hope that when the Messiah would come that he would free them from the Roman government. However, Jesus wasn't referring to their political bondage; he was speaking of a much more serious bondage - their enslavement to the devil and sin. He was referring to the state of their souls which has eternal consequences.
8. Yes, legally and physically they were descendants of Abraham but as Jesus points out they were not true children of Abraham in the spiritual sense which is the true sense. They were filled with pride and hate and refused to listen to truth. Jesus says that they seek to kill him and Abraham's children wouldn't behave like this. Abraham loved God and was obedient and faithful to God. If they were true children of Abraham, they would be like their father and they would recognize their Messiah.
9. Jesus states: "You are of your father, the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires." Jesus goes on to say that their father, the devil was a murderer from the beginning and that there is no truth in him; that he is the father of lies. Jesus is giving them a wake-up call. He sees their hearts and he exposes this to them. Sometimes bringing people face to face with their sins will open their eyes. Jesus says the reason they don't believe him is because they are not of God. If they loved God and were children of God they would be open to Jesus, but they were under the control of the devil and therefore, children of Satan.
10. They are blinded by their own sinfulness and filled with pride. Because of their pridefulness, they are offended by Jesus' words. He speaks the truth to them and they do not want to hear the truth about themselves.
11. According to rabbinic tradition Abraham had been given foresight about the future of his descendants. The Jews answer as if Jesus were claiming to have seen Abraham and insinuate that he is a liar for making such a statement. They clearly still did not understand and refused to listen to the truth.
12. Jesus responds: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." Jesus clearly claims His divinity with this statement. The Jews are so outraged that they take up stones to kill him because of this perceived blasphemy. According to their law, the penalty for a person claiming to be God was death by stoning. The two words that so incensed them were "I AM". This is how God referred to himself when he spoke to Moses from the burning bush: I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). Jesus hid himself and left the temple because "his hour had not yet come."