

“I AM” The Light of the World  
John 8:12-20

v. 12

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

The Light of the World

- We see parallels between God and light quite often in Scripture.
  - 1) Let there be light (Genesis 1:3)
  - 2) Pillar of Fire (Exodus 13:21)
  - 3) Lamp and Light (Psalm 119:105)
  - 4) Life and Light (John 1:1-5)
  - 5) God is Light (1 John 1:5)
  - 6) Lampstands (Revelation 1:12-16)

## 7) Everlasting Light (Revelation 22:5)

- Just like the “Ego Eimi”, this association with light is a declaration of His divinity.

### Darkness

- Light and dark are often contrasted because they are opposite one another.
- Light is seen as pure, holy, and good.
- Darkness is seen as sinful, evil, and dreaded.
- Jesus tells us that He is the light of the world and whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness.
- This verse obliterates “easy believism”.

### Easy Believism

- This is the idea that one can “believe in Jesus” without following Jesus.
- James 2 tells us that even demons believe but they won’t be saved.
- Salvific faith is one that is accompanied by action.
- The action doesn’t save us but a faith that doesn’t produce obedience is a dead faith.
- Jesus tells us that if we follow Him we will walk in light.

### v. 13-18

### Jesus’ Testimony

- The Pharisees attempt to deal with Jesus’ claim with a legal rebuttal.
- In Old Testament law a claim must be supported by 2 or 3 witnesses. (Deuteronomy 19:15)
- Jesus made the claim that He is the light of the world but there is seemingly no one else that can verify this therefore Jesus’ claim should be invalid.

- Jesus doesn't bat an eye at their assertion that He is lying because He Himself knows where He came from as well as where He is going.
- He then satisfies the requirement of the law by telling them that the Father bears witness to His testimony.
- Jesus appeals to the highest authority when He invokes the Father as a witness to His claim.
- He calls God His father. Not His God. This is something very personal.
- Something the Jews did not do out of fear of committing blasphemy.
- Jesus equates Himself with God and the Pharisees are believing Him to be talking about His earthly father which they would have understood to be Joseph.

v. 19-20

Where is Your Father?

- The Pharisees are expecting Jesus to be talking about His earthly father but He is talking about the One who sent Him. The first person of the Triune Godhead.
- Jesus' origin is divine. Not human.
- He tells them that if they really knew God then they would recognize who was standing in front of them.
- This equating Himself with God would have resulted in a charge of blasphemy against Him.
- It's apparent that it did because in verse 20 it says that no one arrested Him because His hour had not yet come.
- Jesus and the Father are One.

## Homoousios vs Homoiousios

- Homoousios means “same substance”.
- Homoiousios means “like substance”.
- This very debate raged at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- Nicholas of Myra was a proponent of Jesus being of same substance with God the Father while Arius was a proponent of Jesus being of like substance.
- Jesus being of the same substance with the Father is orthodox while Jesus being of like substance with the Father is a heresy known as Arianism.
- When Jesus says “I am the Light of the World” He is saying that He is of the same substance as the Father.
- He isn’t saying that He is *like* the Father, He is the same essence as the Father.