

**RESPONSES
TO I AM**

The responses to the “I AM” statements are worth noting and reviewing. There are always only two responses:

Belief

- **John 6:68–69** – “. . . You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”
- **John 8:30** – “As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.”
- **John 9:38** – “And he said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshiped Him.”
- **John 10** – “Many believed in Him there.”
- **John 11:27** – “She [Martha] said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world.’”
- **John 11:45** – “Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.”

Rejection

- **John 6:66** – “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.”
- **John 8:20** – “. . . no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.” (Not because they didn’t want to.)
- **John 8:25, 27** – “So they were saying to Him, ‘Who are You?’ . . . They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.”
- **John 9:16** – “Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, ‘This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others were saying, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And there was a division among them.”
- **John 10:6** – “This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.”
- **John 10:19** – “A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words.”
- **John 10:20** – “Many of them were saying, ‘He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?’
- **John 10:31** – “The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him.”
- **John 11:37** – “But some of them said, ‘Could this man, who opened the eyes of the man who was blind, not have also kept this man from dying?’”
- **John 11:53** – “So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.”

What began as individuals rejecting Him, became a movement to persuade others to reject Him, and then an aggressive campaign to generate consensus against Him. In modern terms, the conspiracy to assassinate Him moves from wishful whispering, to secret plotting, to an open conspiracy coordinating the cooperation of the political, religious, and legal leaders of the day. As a result, Jesus has begun to limit His audience.

**JOHN 13 –
THE CONTEXT**

The audience of the “I AM” statements has shifted. His ministry and teaching are focused now on the twelve disciples as He prepares them for His death, resurrection, and departure. John 13 relates the story of Jesus washing the disciple’s feet and celebrating communion—the last supper. He said some important things in that context, and He continues to preach the gospel!

- **13:8** – “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”
- **13:11** – “Not all of you are clean.”

- 13:18 – *“I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’”*
- 13:20 – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”*

Jesus increasingly and actively exposes Judas, as Judas continues to reject Him, even in the intimate personal context of the events of John 13. He is finally exposed and identified. He leaves the gathering of Jesus with his disciples and from that point, Jesus’ ministry is to believers. Jesus tells the remaining eleven that their life is about to change. Jesus is leaving them and what they have known during the life and ministry of Jesus is over. His focus now is preparing them for life without Jesus.

In John 13 Jesus has revealed His divine attributes and set an example for ministry and life as a believer:

- **His Teaching** – He confronts sin, He establishes the pattern for communion, He is again preaching the hope of the gospel, He is making application—how then, should they live?
- **His Love** – as He heads towards the cross, His life is devoted to His sheep. He demonstrates that love and then commands that His disciples love one another as He has loved them.
- **His Humility** – He washes their feet. He knows of the murder plot against Him and remains under that trial even when He could have ended it all. He repeats His submission to the Father.
- **His Service** – His entire life is devoted to the service of others. His Father. The Disciples. You and me.
- **His Omniscience** – He knows Judas is a faker. He knows the future. He knows their future and their spiritual condition.
- **His Patience** – He allows Judas the opportunity to repent all the way to the end. He preaches the gospel for Judas to the end.

After the departure of Judas, there are no more “two responses.” The teaching of Jesus Christ is to His chosen men—the genuine believers. It is in this context—and in response to the specific questions asked by His disciples—that Jesus makes this—the sixth—“I AM” statement.

John 13:36–14:7 – *“Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, where are You going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.’ Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.’ Jesus answered, ‘Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times. Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.’ Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.**”*

I AM THE WAY

“The Way”—Jesus is the way to salvation, and He is the way (path) after salvation.

Matthew 7:13–14 – *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

John 10:9 – *“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”*

Hebrews 10:19–20 – *“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh”*

I AM THE TRUTH

“The Truth”—The truth about our origin, purpose, spiritual condition, relationship to our creator is all found in Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and He taught the truth.

John 1:14 – *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:17 – *“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”*

John 8:31–31 – *“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”*

I AM THE LIFE

“The Life”—Jesus Christ exists in all time and eternity—past and future. He conquered death that we might have life. He is the life. And He has the power and grace to offer life—eternal life.

Genesis 2:7 - *“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”*

Colossians 1:16 - *“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”*

John 10:27–28 – *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”*

1 John 5:11–12 – *“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”*

But, recall, Jesus is talking to believers. His eleven true disciples are grasping the reality that life for them is changing. Jesus is leaving them. Jesus knows, more than they do, how much life is going to change. It is that reality that He is preparing them for, and it has direct application to you and me. He is talking now to believers and the implications are for believers.

LIFE AS A BELIEVER

HOW THEN SHOULD I LIVE?

The Way

The way will be maligned and confused to accommodate sinful lifestyles and desires. We must not fall into that trap. Second Peter describes the world in which you and I live as believers in Jesus Christ:

- The way of truth will be maligned: 2 Peter 2:2 – *“Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned.”*
- Rejecting Christ is a decision to adopt the wrong way: 2 Peter 2:15 – *“forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”*

The way must be illuminated. In the midst of a lost and hostile world, we are reminded in Psalm 119:105 that *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* The current Men of the Word

series ("It is Written: A Study of the Doctrine of Scripture") is vital—giving you the tools and motivation to turn on that lamp and to use it effectively and accurately. God's Word is fundamental to your walk in the way and staying on the path.

The way forward is trust, humility, and obedience. As Proverbs 3:5–7 instructs us, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil."*

The Truth

Truth sets you free. John 8:31–32 states, *"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"*

Truth sanctifies you. Jesus says in John 17:16–19, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."*

Truth matures you. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:14–15, *"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ."*

The Life

Life as a believer in Jesus Christ, while not guaranteed to be easy, will be very different than life without Christ.

Life in Christ is abundant. Jesus tells us in John 10:10, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

Life in Christ is not lonely. Romans 8:11 reminds us, *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."* (Also, see John 14.)

Life in Christ is not your own. Colossians 3:3–4 – *"For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Questions for Discussion:

1. In John 14:1, Jesus calls Christians to not be troubled and believe. What is the significance of that statement? Why is He telling believers to believe?
2. What "ways" do people pursue to achieve "salvation" other than Jesus Christ?
3. Read John 14. What are all the promises to believers?
4. How would you explain the Gospel to an unbeliever using John 14:6?

Audio, video, and handouts for this session: www.gracechurch.org/motw

Next meeting: April 30, "The Practice of Bible Study, Part 3" (Brad Klassen)