

Pronouns For “Jesus Only” People

by John Isaac Edwards

Anyone who thinks there is only one person in the Godhead needs a basic grammar lesson. A *pronoun* is a word that replaces a *noun* or another pronoun. The noun to which a pronoun refers is called the *antecedent*. An elementary rule overlooked by “Jesus only” people is that pronouns must agree with the nouns for which they stand in case, gender, and number.

Personal Pronouns

1) **I And He.** Jesus promised the twelve, “And **I** will pray the Father, and **he** shall give you another Comforter, that **he** may abide with you for ever” (Jn. 14:16). Now drop down to verse 26: “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he** shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever **I** have said unto you.”

I and *he* are not the same person. *I* has reference to Jesus (vv. 6, 9, 23), while the first *he* refers to the Father and the second *he* stands for the Holy Ghost. “Another Comforter” in John 14:16 indicates some other, just as “another servant” in Mark 12:4 suggests one different or distinct from the one first sent.

Note: If it be argued that since Jesus and the Father were both said to send the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26), that Jesus and the Father are therefore one person, then were church and the Holy Ghost the same person in Acts 13:1-4, when the church sent Barnabas and Saul away and were said to be sent forth by the Holy Ghost (Acts 13:1-4)? Just because one action is attributed to multiple persons does not make them one and the same person!

2) **I And Thee / Thou And Me.** Upon the raising of dead Lazarus, “Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, **I** thank **thee** that **thou** hast heard **me**. And **I** knew that **thou** hearest **me** always: but because of the people which stand by **I** said it, that they may believe that **thou** hast sent **me**” (Jn. 11:41-42).

Question: To whom was Jesus speaking on this occasion? If Jesus is the only person in the Godhead, then He must have just been talking to Himself!

In order for “Jesus only” teaching to be true, this statement would have to read: “**Self**, I thank thee that thou hast heard **thyself**. And I knew that thou hearest **thyself** always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou

hast sent **thyself**.” Do you see the absurdity of this false doctrine?

3) **My And Thy.** Jesus spake concerning John, “This is he, of whom it is written, Behold I send **my** messenger before **thy** face, which shall prepare **thy** way before thee” (Lk. 7:27).

Question: How many persons are involved in this passage? Let the “Jesus only” people tell us to which persons the pronouns “my” and “thy” refer. They cannot be referring to the same person.

Plural Personal Pronouns

Plural personal pronouns require a plural number of persons. Note these examples:

1) **We.** Jesus prayed, “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as **we** are” (Jn. 17:11, 22). *We* corresponds with *they* in these verses. If *we* is singular, then *they* must also be singular. Was Jesus praying that the disciples all be one person?

2) **Us.** The Lord God used the word “**us**” (Gen. 1:26; 3:33; 11:7). If there is only one person in the Godhead, Jesus only,

explain why a singular person would use a plural pronoun in reference to Himself.

3) **Our**. Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make **our** abode with him" (Jn. 14:23). When Jesus referred to Himself, He used the singular pronoun *me*; but when He added the Father, He changed to the plural *we* and *our*. Why the change in pronouns, if Jesus and the Father are one and the same person?

Pronouns In Messianic Psalms

Psalms prophesying of the coming Messiah include pronouns expressing distinction of persons. Such passages could be multiplied.

1) **Psalm 2:6-7**: "Yet have **I** set **my** king upon **my** holy hill of Zion. **I** will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto **me**, **Thou** art **my** Son; this day have **I** begotten **thee**." Read Acts 13:30-37 and Hebrews 1:5. Who is the king set on Zion's holy hill? Who set him there? Who said, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee"? Who is the begotten Son?

2) **Psalm 8:4-6**: "What is man, that **thou** art mindful of **him**? and the son of man, that **thou**

visitest **him**? For **thou** hast made **him** a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned **him** with glory and honour. **Thou** madest **him** to have dominion over the works of **thy** hands; **thou** hast put all things under **his** feet." Read Hebrews 2:6-9. If you are a believer in the "Jesus only" doctrine, tell us to whom "thou" and "him" and "thou" and "his" refer. Can you tell us?

3) **Psalm 16:10**: "For **thou** wilt not leave **my** soul in hell; neither wilt **thou** suffer **thine** Holy One to see corruption." Read Acts 2:25-32; 13:34-37. The "Jesus only" crowd likes to run to "Holy One" passages, never mind the fact that "Holy" is used of the Father (Jn. 17:11), of Jesus (Acts 4:27), and of the Spirit (Acts 5:3). The "Jesus only" advocates admit the "Holy One" in Psalm 16:10 is Jesus. Let them tell us who is the antecedent of *thou*. We await their response.

4) **Psalm 40:6-8**: "Sacrifice and offering **thou** didst not desire; **mine** ears hast **thou** opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast **thou** not required. Then said **I**, Lo, **I** come: in the volume of the book it is written of **me**, **I** delight to do **thy** will, O **my** God: yea, **thy** law is within **my** heart." Read Hebrews 10:5-10, which mentions "a body hast **thou** prepared **me**." One

person prepared another person a body. It falls on the "Jesus only" people to tell us about this body-preparing. Whose body was it? Who prepared it?

5) **Psalm 45:6-7**: "**Thy** throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of **thy** kingdom is a right sceptre. **Thou** lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, **thy** God, hath anointed **thee** with the oil of gladness above **thy** fellows." Read Hebrews 1:8-9 and Acts 4:27; 10:38. Who anointed Jesus?

6) **Psalm 110:1**: "The Lord said unto **my** Lord, Sit **thou** at **my** right hand, until **I** make **thine** enemies **thy** footstool." Read Acts 2:32-36 and Hebrews 1:3. Who is represented by *thou* and *my*?

A good exercise is to read the Lord's prayer in John 17 and circle every pronoun that indicates a plurality of persons — there are over 100! If "Jesus only" teaching be true, words must have no meaning!

We affirm the Scriptures teach there are three separate, distinct persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We deny the Scriptures teach there is only person in the Godhead: Jesus only.

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com