

## The Metaphors of John

*These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

*(John 20:31)*

### A. The Great Difference of the Gospel of John

1. A Topical Approach
2. The only time this is done in the Bible with Jesus' own words.
3. In taking this approach to the Gospel, John is claiming not just to be faithfully transmitting history, but prioritized message of Jesus.
4. Teaching Like the Teacher – Using the Metaphor
  - a. The Value of Metaphors
  - b. The Danger of Metaphors – John 7:17  
Example: Born by choice?
5. We can confirm our interpretations with John's Epistles and Revelation

### B. The Great Message

1. The truth is from God.
2. Life is from God.
3. Life is transferred to us through words – Jesus' words and the words about Jesus.
  - a. Not as the "Word of Faith" cults believe, but by communication of truth.
  - b. John 17:1-8
4. Receiving life is conditional.
  - a. Conditional, Arbitrary, Universal
    - i. If conditional, then only some are saved, based on rules.
    - ii. If arbitrary, then only some are saved, but not based on any rules, not even the "God secret decree."
    - iii. If universal, then all are saved, without conditions.
  - b. Life, by its nature, *must* be conditional  
"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3)
  - c. Conditional Life

- i. John 3:16-21; John 14:21-24
  - ii. Objections answered.
    - a. John 6:44 --> 6:47; 12:32; 8:28
    - b. John 5:21 --> 5:24
    - c. John 5:26-27 --> 5:28-29
  - d. Maintaining life (sanctification) is conditional.
    - i. John 15:1-13
    - ii. John 17:11-26
5. Life is transferred to us through the truth about God. But what truth in particular?  
Answer: God's love for the world, expressed in Jesus' words and actions.
- a. John 3:16
  - b. John 6:44; 8:28; 12:32-33
  - c. John 10:17-18
  - d. John 15:13

## References on The Metaphors of John (New American Standard Bible)

### *Definition of Life*

#### **John 17:3**

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

### *Life is Conditional*

#### **John 3:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

<sup>18</sup>"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

<sup>19</sup>"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup>"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

<sup>21</sup>"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

#### **John 14:21-24**

<sup>21</sup>"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

<sup>24</sup>"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

## Glossary

### met·a·phor

**met·a·phor** (mèt<sup>1</sup>e-fôr', -fer) *noun*

1. *Abbr. met., metaph.* A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison, as in “*a sea of troubles*” or “*All the world's a stage*” (Shakespeare).
2. One thing conceived as representing another; a symbol: “*The high-rise garbage repository is a metaphor for both accomplishment and failure*” (Richard Sever).

[Middle English *methaphor*, from Old French *metaphore*, from Latin *metaphora*, from Greek, transference, metaphor, from *metapherein*, to transfer : *meta-*, meta- + *pherein*, to carry.]

— **met´a·phor<sup>1</sup>ic** (-fôr<sup>1</sup>îk, -fôr<sup>1</sup>-) or **met´a·phor<sup>1</sup>i·cal** *adjective*

— **met´a·phor<sup>1</sup>i·cal·ly** *adverb*<sup>1</sup>

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