

John 17 - Eternity

Introduction

Throughout John's account of Jesus life there has been this consistent theme that Jesus offers something that we can't quite understand.

Look up some of the following verses – what is Jesus offering that no one else is?

John 3:16

John 4:14

John 5:24

John 6:27

John 12:25

Opening discussion question:

Why do you think eternity is a hard concept to get our heads round?

What would you say to someone who was worried that the idea of heaven going on forever might get boring?

Digging In

Read Ecclesiastes 3:11

Q: What do you think it means that God has put "eternity into human hearts"?

Q: What ways does this longing for eternity express itself in people today?

Read John 17:1-5

Q: How does Jesus define eternal life here?

Q: What does it mean to know God in this way? What is the difference between knowing God and knowing ABOUT God?

Q: Jesus asked God to glorify him – what else do we learn about God's glory in these 5 verses?

"In self-giving we touch the rhythm of not just all creation but of all being. In Jesus we see someone who gives himself in sacrifice not only on Calvary, for when Jesus was crucified, he did in the **wild weather of his outlying provinces that which he had done at home in glory and gladness**, for since before the foundation of the world he surrenders begotten Deity back to begetting Deity in obedience. And as the Son so also the Father glorifies the Son.

CS Lewis - The Problem of Pain, p157

Q: In what way is Jesus glory on the cross an extension of what he has always done?

Q: What would does it mean for our eternal life to not just be a future hope but one that impacts our present reality?

Read Jeremiah 31:34

Q: How does Jeremiah relate our knowing of God to our understanding of forgiveness?