



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to briefly look at two familiar arguments regarding Christ's claims to be Deity and one not so familiar. Consider the following arguments.

When Jesus called himself the "Son of God" He was saying he was the same nature as God. The phrase "the Son of" indicated one was of the same nature. Although Jesus called God his Father, he also said: "The Father and I are one" (Jn. 10:30) and "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). So Jesus' claim to be the "Son of God" was a claim to be of the nature of God—or said in another way—a claim to Deity.

Secondly, Jesus also claimed to be sinless: "Which of you convicts me of sin?" (Jn. 8:46). He claimed to forgive sins—all sins, against everyone. The Jews protested: "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Lk. 5:21). The only one who has the right to forgive all sins is the only one who is offended in all sins, namely, God. I have a right to forgive you for your sins against me, but not for your sins against others.

The above arguments are most likely familiar to you. The argument in this paragraph may not be. Consider the argument based upon Jesus' change of Simon's name to Peter (Jn. 1:42). For a Jew, changing names was something only God could do, for your name was not just a human, arbitrary label, but your real identity, which was given to you by God alone. In the Old Testament, only God changed names: Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Jacob became Israel. An orthodox Jew who got his name legally changed was excommunicated.

We most likely all believe Jesus is Deity. Perhaps most of us knew the first two arguments employed. Some of you may have known the third argument as well. Regardless, whether we know or believe any of the arguments regarding Jesus being Deity, the fact of the matter is not changed.

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There is a game we most likely all played when we were kids. Some may even play it as adults. To be honest it can be very fun to play as a "grown-up." Hide-and-seek is a game that we all are familiar with. It has somewhat disappeared from the list of fun things to do within the new generation. As kids, hide-and-seek was the ultimate game to play in the woods, a big house, and even inside of the church building. In your group of friends you may remember the one who always counted and stood by the base waiting for everyone else to get tired of hiding. You may remember the kid who always screamed that they gave up even though they didn't really look very extensively. There was also the person who found the hiding spot that was so good that they never were found.

As humans, life can sometimes be like a game of hide-and-seek. At times you may want to give up even though you haven't given it a real shot. You might also try to look for the best place to be so that no one ever bothers you or finds you. Sometimes you might even think about remaining really close to "home-base" so that you don't miss anyone or anything within arms reach. Matthew 6:33 tells us to "Seek ye first the kingdom of God". Matthew 7:7-8 says to "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

As Christians we should always be searching for God. If we can't find Him we continuously look for Him. If we are in need of something or are looking for purpose in our life, ask for it, search for it and it will be given to you or you will find it. If you are constantly hiding hoping that Satan will never find you, you'll never find God, who is able to help you. If you remain close to home because of fear for what is out there, you will never find what might make you feel whole, or what God has planned for you. Are you constantly looking for God, or have you given up even though you haven't really searched for him enough? If you truly "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his Righteousness" you will find what you are looking for.

*Mitchell's  
Weekly  
Manna*  
Mitchell Lockhart

## Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Heavy Laden  
Matthew 11:28-30**

**P.M. — 5th Sunday Night Singing**

## The Best Things In Life Are Free

A Chinese legend tells of a group of cultured elderly gentlemen who met often to exchange wisdom and drink tea. Each host tried to find the finest and most costly varieties of tea so as to create exotic blends that would arouse the admiration of his guests.

When the most venerable and respected of the group entertained, he served his tea with unprecedented ceremony, measuring the leaves from a golden box. The assembled epicures praised this exquisite tea. The host smiled and said, "The tea you have found so delightful is the same tea our peasants drink. I hope that it will be a reminder to us all that the good things in life are not necessarily the rarest or the most costly. [Michael P. Green, 1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 392].

Truly the best things in life are free! The most valuable things don't cost any money. Therefore the things that cost money should not be prioritized over free things like family and friends. Often called a proverb, the saying is a reminder that money and objects are not the most important things in life.

Many lists have been made of the best things in life that are free. They often include family, friends, smiles, laughter, hugs, love, and...wait for it...sleep! No matter the amount of our wealth in the bank, their value will never raise to the level of happiness that is gained by those things in life that are free. If we focus on the many free things of life in our life, we would have to view ourselves as wealthy.

Do you think much about the free gift of God—salvation in Christ Jesus? That gift definitely cost Deity much. But it was given to us as our only hope of being saved from the wages of sin—death. It is important that we do not misunderstand that this gift from God does not require a response from us. We must be willing to receive such through obedience—the condition God has placed upon us receiving the gift.

Wayne Jackson provides some excellent thoughts along these lines. I would like to share a few quotes from him in this article. "...Christ himself was a gift from God to humanity: "For God so loved the world that he gave didomi his only Son" (Jn. 3:16). But that gift was not unconditional, for the apostle continues, "that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have life everlasting." In the larger context of John's gospel, belief and obedience are synonyms (cf. Jn. 3:36, ASV, ESV). Furthermore, elsewhere John makes it clear that Christ "came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God" (Jn. 1:11-12). A gift does not exclude possible conditions." (<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles>)

So whether we consider the things of this life on earth or eternal life, let us consider the value of those things that have been provided us. The most important thing ever provided to mankind is the opportunity to be able to be reconciled to God and to dwell in His presence forever. Without this gift from God, we would all receive the wages of sin. Consider the multitudes of blessing we have been provided in this life. Focus on the simple and the most important.

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*