

The “Individualism” of the Gospel of John

A lecture by Richard Bauckham

Outline of Lecture

Clarifications and Definitions

The Johannine evidence – (1) aphoristic sayings about the individual’s relationship with Jesus

The Johannine evidence – (2) ‘In-one-another-ness’ (personal coinherence)

The Johannine evidence – (3) Jesus in dialogue with individual Gospel characters

Aphoristic sayings about the individual’s relationship with Jesus

5 types (total sayings: 67):

(1) ‘The one who ...’ (*ho* + participle ...) (37)

Examples:

‘The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life, but must endure God’s wrath’ (3:36).

‘The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him/her, and reveal myself to him/her’ (14:21b).

3:18a; 3:18b; 3:21; 3:33; 3:36a; 3:36b; 5:23b; 5:24; 6:35a; 6:35b; 6:37b; 6:45; 6:47; 6:54; 6:56; 6:57; 6:58; 7:37-38; 8:12; 8:47; 11:25; 12:25a; 12:25b; 12:35; 12:44; 12:45; 12:48; 13:10; 13:20b; 13:20a; 14:9; 14:12; 14:21a; 14:21b; 14:24; 15:5; 15:23

(1 John 2:4; 2:6; 2:9; 2:10; 2:11; 3:7; 3:10c; 3:14b; 3:24; 4:6a; 4:8; 4:16c; 4:18b; 4:21b; 5:10a; 5:10b; 5:12a; 5:12b. 2 John 9b. 3 John 11a; 11b)

(2) ‘If anyone ...’ (*ean tis* ...) (14)

Examples:

‘If anyone keeps my word, he/she will never see death’ (8:51).

‘If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him/her’ (12:47).

3:3; 3:5; 6:51; 7:17; 7:37; 8:51-52; 10:9; 11:9; 11:10; 12:26a; 12:26b; 12:47; 14:23; 15:6.

(1 John 2:11)

(3) ‘Everyone who ...’ (*pas ho* + participle ...) (12)

Examples:

‘Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I shall raise him/her up at the last day’ (6:40).

‘Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice’ (18:37).

3:15; 3:16; 3:20; 4:13; 6:37a; 6:40; 8:34; 11:26; 12:46; 15:2a; 15:2b; 18:37

(1 John 3:4; 3:6a; 3:6b; 3:8; 3:9; 3:10b; 3:15; 4:7; 5:1a; 5:1b; 5:4. 2 John 9a)

(4) ‘Whoever ...’ (*hos an* ...) (1)

4:14

(1 John 3:17; 4:15) (cf. 1 John 4:6b: ο °β)

(5) ‘No one ...’ (*oudeis* ...) (3)

6:44; 6:65; 14:6

‘In-one-another-ness’ (personal coinherence)

‘The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him/her’ (6:56).

‘I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father’ (10:14-15)

‘I am in the Father and the Father is in me’ (14:10)

The Spirit of truth ‘abides with you, and he will be in you’ (14:17)

‘I am in my Father, and you in me, I in you’ (14:20)

My Father and I ‘will come to him/her and make our home with him/her’ (14:23)

Parable of the Vine:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²Every branch in me that bears no fruit he removes. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit...’ ⁴*Abide in me and I will abide in you.* Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you *abide in me*. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. The one who *abides in me and I in him/her* bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone *does not abide in me* he/she is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you *abide in me, and my words abide in you*, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.... ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love (15:1-2, 4-7, 9-10).

Jesus' prayer to the Father:

[I ask] 'that they may all be one. As *you, Father, are in me and I in you*, may they also be *in us*, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,²³ *I in them and you in me*, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me...²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that *the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them*' (17:21-23, 26).

Jesus' private dialogues with individuals

Nathanael (1:47-51),
 Nicodemus (3:1-21),
 Samaritan woman (4:7-26),
 Martha (11:20-27),
 Pilate (18:33-9:12),
 Mary Magdalene (20:14-17),
 Peter (21:15-22)

The lecture title was provoked by C. F. D. Moule, 'The Individualism of the Fourth Gospel,' *Novum Testamentum* 5 (1962) 171-190; reprinted in C. F. D. Moule, *Essays in New Testament Interpretation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982) 91-109; and in David E. Orton ed., *The Composition of John's Gospel: Selected Studies from Novum Testamentum* (Leiden: Brill, 1999) 21-40.

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