

*Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John*  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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### **Doubt Has Its Reasons – Part 1 (John 7:1-24)**

#### **1. Reason 1 – Familiarity (vv. 1-10)**

#### **2. Reason 2 – Intellectualism (vv. 11-24)**

**Getting Started:**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Who has been willing to talk with you about your doubts and struggles with the faith?  
How have they helped you?

**For Further Thought and Discussion:**

3. How are we to understand the words of Jesus' brothers in vv. 3-4? What assumption do they make about Jesus? How does Jesus respond (vv. 6-8)? In verse 8, Jesus says that he is not going to the feast. But in verse 10, Jesus goes up to the feast. How do we reconcile Jesus' words with his actions?
4. How do the crowds respond to Jesus' ministry (v. 12)? Why can they only speak in hushed tones about him (v. 13)? What charge do the religious elite make against Jesus (cf. John 5:16-18)? How does Jesus respond to this charge (vv. 19-23)? How does he demonstrate from Old Testament Law that (a) the Jewish leaders are actually the ones breaking the law and (b) he is actually fulfilling the law?
5. What does Jesus mean, when he says, "*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with a righteous judgment*" (v. 24)? Why does the crowd write Jesus off? What is clouding their judgment?

**Application:**

6. Some of us have grown up in the church, and feel very familiar with Jesus/Christianity. How can such familiarity breed doubt? How does Jesus challenge those who think they know him (and might be tempted to discard their spiritual heritage)? How can intellectualism breed doubt? How does Jesus challenge those who write him off, because the intellectual elite do? Which of these doubts resonated with you? Why?
7. Jesus says that the world hates him, because he testifies "*that its works are evil*" (v. 7). Why might people not want to believe in the reality of Jesus? Why is critical that we see Jesus not only as true, but also as beautiful/desirable?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?