

John, The Gospel of Controversy

John 8:39-47

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John's Gospel is commonly referenced as "*the Gospel of Love*." This is certainly an accurate appraisal of its contents. There is, however, more to the story. John is also "*the Gospel of Controversy*." In these controversies we are able to learn some extremely important truths about an acceptable relationship with God. Come and see.

A Sampling of the Controversies and The Primary Causes for Their Development

- First Temple Cleansing—Subverting God's Purposes for Selfish Gain (2:14-25).
- Nicodemus—Self-righteousness (3:1-21).
- Bethesda Healing—Subverting God's Purposes in Pride (5:10-24, 39-47).
- The 5,000 Aftermath—Selfishness and Pride (6:26-58).
- Feast of Booths—Pride and Selfishness (7:32, 40-52).
- Woman Taken in Adultery—Hearts Callused by Pride and Selfishness (8:1-11).
- Man Born Blind—Subverting God's Purposes in Pride (9:1-41).
- Lazarus Raised—Pride and Selfishness (11:47-53).

Things Jesus Cannot Ignore

- Self-righteousness
- Selfishness
- Subverting God's Purposes
- Pride

The Remedy

- Humility (Jn. 3:3)
- Faith (Jn. 8:31-32)
- Truth (Jn. 5:39-40)

Jesus was not one to get into a controversy over nothing. The things He would not let pass are things we also must not ignore. Those characteristics that move us away from God and into ourselves are deadly. Jesus' love for the Father's will and for our best interests will not let Him overlook such things.