

Acts 4:5-12

1John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” ... John 10:11

Jesus didn't say the good shepherd gives His life for **His** sheep, but He said, **the** sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own” ... John 10:14

Jesus is making reference to a specific flock of sheep here. His sheep. He knows them and they know Him.

“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” ... John 10:15-16

From verses 14 and 15 I see an intimate relationship between the Father, the Son (Shepherd), and His flock. They **know** one another.

Merriam-Webster definition of **knowing**; **known**; **know**: to **perceive directly**: have **direct cognition** of: to have **understanding** of: to **discern the nature** of: to **be acquainted or familiar with**: to **have experience of**:

That speaks to me of closeness. The words perceive, direct cognition, understanding, discerning the nature, being acquainted with and familiar with and best of all to experience. Jesus wants us to **know** Him. He **knows** us this way already. But His desire is that we get to **know** Him.

Reverend Hynes made reference to a picture that I own of Jesus, the Shepherd, holding a lamb. They are snuggled close; Jesus has his head pressed gently against the lamb's head snuggled under His chin. The Shepherd's eyes are closed, and He is smiling big! I can sense Him smelling the fragrance of the little lamb. He **knows** him/her.

Jesus said, “I must bring.” His desire is that all the sheep would be gathered into the same flock. I can't help but see John 3:16 here.

“For God so loved the world (the sheep) that He gave His only begotten Son (the shepherd), that whoever (other sheep) believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (To be part of the one flock with One Shepherd).

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

The **I AM! He's present!!**

I AM who I AM Exodus 3:14.

Before Abraham was, **I AM** John 8:48

I AM the bread of life ... John 6:35 ... the true bread from heaven

I AM the light of the world ... John 8:12.... No more need of pillar of fire

I AM the door, the gate, the good shepherd ... todays gospel reading.

I AM the resurrection and the life ... John 11:25

I AM the way, the truth, and the life ... John 14:6

I AM the true vine ... John 15:1

The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen!

Father, help us to understand the truth of Your ever presence! Today is always today with You. Yesterday with all of its sorrows and sins and even its triumphs and joys has gone! Tomorrow is unknown to us but You, who stand outside of time, hold all of our tomorrows and have everything under control. There is no happenstance with You. You are all knowing! We are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture.

“And lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”