

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

- Why is the deity of Christ so critical?
- Can someone be a Christian and deny that Jesus is God?
- Absolute faith in the deity of Christ is necessary to being a Christian. It is a vital and essential part of N.T. teaching. Yet, from the first century on, the church has been forced to deal with people who claim to be Christians while denying or distorting the truth about the deity of Christ.
- In 325, at the council of Nicea, the church opposed heresy and declared that Jesus was begotten, not made/created. His divine nature was identical in essence with the Father. This affirmed that the second person of the trinity is one in essence with the Father. They pointed out that He was not just similar to Deity, but He is Deity.
- In the fifth century, the council at Chalcedon also affirmed that Jesus was indeed truly human and Deity. Jesus' two natures were said to be “without mixture, confusion, separation, or division.”
- It is very important that we understand the Deity of Christ in light of the fact that we are living at a time when the deity of Christ is being attacked
- We must protect this all-important doctrine in the midst of challenge
- The doctrine of Christ's deity is not based on a few proof texts, rather it is woven into the very fabric of the New Testament

MARKS OF DEITY

Explicit Scriptural Claims

John 1:1, 14 ~ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- The Jehovah's Witnesses say that the word “the” is missing. Without the word “the,” you should say “a god.”
- But in the Greek when the word “the” is not used, it emphasizes quality or essence. Therefore, John 1:1 is emphasizing the fact that Christ is the same quality and essence as God.
- In John 1:12 the phrase “children of God,” no “the” is used. The same is true in John 1:18 ~ no one has seen God. Therefore if we are consistent with what the J.W. say, we should interpret John 1:1, 18 by saying, "The Word was a god...no one has seen a god at any time." It does not make sense.

John 1:18 ~ *No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him*

John 10:30-33 ~ *“I and the Father are one.” 31 The Jews took up stones again to stone Him.32 Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”33 The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”*

- Christ Himself claimed that He was God
- In Exodus 3:14, God calls himself “I am.” On a number of occasions in the Greek NT, Jesus used this same term as a way of identifying Himself as God:

John 4:26 ~ *Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." (there is no "He" in the original).*

John 8:24 ~ *Jesus states "Unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (there is no "He" in the original).*

- Jesus clearly used this term as a means of identifying Himself as God
- Other verses that give direct support to fact that Christ is fully God:

Hebrews 1:3 ~ *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

Divine Names

God

Isaiah 9:6 ~ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . and his name shall be called . . . the mighty God, the everlasting Father*

Matthew 1:23 ~ *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means "God with us."*

- "El" is the Hebrew word for God and "Immanuel" is a form of this word: God with us
- This name is never used of a mere man.

Philippians 2:6 ~ *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

Titus 2:13 ~ *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus*

Hebrews 1:8 ~ *But of the Son He says, "THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.*

2 Peter 1:1 ~ *Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:*

Son of God

- The term "Son of God" in Christ's day meant "equal with God"

John 5:18 ~ *For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 19:7 ~ *The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God."*

Matthew 11:26-27 ~ *Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

1 John 5:20 ~ *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

- That Christ called God His "Father" shows that He was unlike other men

John 10:30 ~ *I and the Father are one.*

John 20:17 ~ *Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father;*

- Others recognized Christ as being the Son of God

Demons: **Matthew 8:29** ~ *And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"*

Gabriel: **Luke 1:32** ~ *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*

John the Baptist: **John 1:34** ~ *I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."*

Roman Centurion: **Mark 15:39** ~ *When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"*

Disciples: **Matthew 14:33** ~ *And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"*

Martha: **John 11:27** ~ *She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."*

Lord

- In light of Isaiah 45:5-6 and Revelation 11:15, what is unique about the application of the title "Lord" to Christ?

Isaiah 45:5-6 ~ *I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,*

Revelation 11:15 ~ *Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."*

John 20:28 ~ *Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

Acts 16:31 ~ *They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

Romans 10:13 ~ *Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*

1 Corinthians 2:8 ~ *the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;*

Philippians 2:10-11 ~ *that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

The Holy One

Hosea 11:9 ~ *For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.*

Isaiah 48:17 ~ *Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go.*

Acts 3:14 ~ *But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,*

The First and the Last

Isaiah 44:6 ~ *Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.*

Isaiah 48:12 ~ *Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.*

Revelation 1:17-18 ~ *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.*

Divine Attributes

Eternal

Isaiah 9:6 ~ *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Micah 5:2 ~ *"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."*

John 8:58 ~ *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."*

John 17:5 ~ *And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.*

Revelation 22:13 ~ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*

All Powerful, Sovereign, Omnipotent

- Where do we see examples of Christ's power?

Matthew 28:18 ~ *All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth*

Colossians 1:17 ~ *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Hebrews 1:3 ~ *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Revelation 1:8 ~ *I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty*

All Knowing, Omniscient

- Where do we see examples of Christ knowing all things?

Matthew 9:4 ~ *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"*

John 2:24 ~ *But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,*

John 6:64 ~ *"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.*

John 16:30 ~ *"Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God."*

John 18:4 ~ *Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"*

Colossians 2:3 ~ *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

- But how does this square with what Christ said in Matthew 24:36?

Matthew 24:36 ~ *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

Omnipresent

Matthew 18:20 ~ *For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.*”

Matthew 28:20 ~ *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

- But how could Christ be omnipresent while in human form?

Unchanging

Hebrews 1:11-12 ~ *They will perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a garment, And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.*”

Hebrews 13:8 ~ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*

Giver of Life

John 1:4 ~ *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

John 5:21 ~ *For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;*

John 10:10 ~ *The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.*

John 14:6 ~ *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*

Perfect Righteousness

Hebrews 7:26 ~ *For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;*

John 6:69 ~ *And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.*”

1 Peter 2:22 ~ *WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;*

Truth

John 14:6 ~ *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*

Revelation 3:7 ~ *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this*

Divine Works

Creation

John 1:3 ~ *All things came into being by Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

Colossians 1:16 ~ *All things have been created by Him and for Him.*

Hebrews 1:10 ~ *And “You, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING DIDST LAY THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THY HANDS;*

Forgave Sins

Mark 2:7 ~ *Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?*

Luke 5:24 ~ *” But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, ”—He said to the paralytic—“I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home.”*

Luke 7:47-48 ~ *“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.”⁴⁸ And He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”*

Raised the Dead

John 5:25-29 ~ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

John 6:39-40 ~ *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*

John 11:25 ~ *I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies (Lazarus).*

Judges People

John 5:22 ~ *For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,*

Acts 10:42 ~ *And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.*

Acts 17:31 ~ *because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 ~ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Receives and Answers Prayer

John 14:14 ~ *If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

Acts 7:59 ~ *They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”*

Received Worship

- Christ allowed and condoned worship of Himself.
- Unlike Paul and Barnabas in Acts 14, where they tore their clothes and insisted that the crowd not worship them, for they were “merely men”, Christ received worship from many
- He received worship from Thomas (John 20:28), angels (Hebrews 1:6), a leper (Matthew 8:2), a blind man (John 9:38), Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28:9) and the disciples (Matthew 28:17).
- Jesus never tried to stop or discourage followers from worshipping Him.
- In Revelation (4:10 and 5:11-14) it is very revealing in that we see both God and Jesus receiving the exact same worship

God alone is to be worshipped

Exodus 34:14 ~ *for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God*

Matthew 4:10 ~ *Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"*

Divine worship is accepted by Christ

John 5:23 ~ *He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*

John 20:28 ~ *Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

Philippians 2:9-11 ~ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*

Matthew 28:9-10 ~ *And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."*

Hebrews 1:6 ~ *And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."*

CONCLUSION

Colossians 1:19 ~ *For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,*

Colossians 2:9 ~ *For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*

Jesus Christ is fully God!