

Pastor Robert Rutta

The Deity of Christ

John 1:1-5, 14

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

This is a topic that we must have a clear understanding of – the deity of Jesus Christ.

This means that He was and is God.

That truth shapes every aspect of our doctrine.

If Jesus was not God, then we have no salvation.

If all we had were the opening verses of John, that would be enough, but the Bible is full of proofs of this wonderful truth.

John 20:28

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Notice how Thomas addressed the Lord. He not only said "My Lord," but he also addressed Jesus as "my God."

Did Jesus rebuke him and correct him and say, "Thomas, how dare you call me GOD. I'm not God, I'm just a man like you?"

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Jesus readily accepted it when He was called God.

Hebrews 1:8

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Titus 2:13

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The Bible clearly refers to Him as God.

Many of the cults view Jesus very differently.

They can be very convincing if we do not have a good grasp of what the Bible says.

Christadelphian

Jesus did not exist in any personal way before His divine conception but is the literal "word of God" become flesh. He was created a special but mortal man. He received divine power at His baptism which was withdrawn at the cross. They do not believe Christ will ever be equal to God or truly divine since they believe Jesus is a created being just like man and the angels.

Jehovah's Witnesses

They teach that Jesus was created by God just prior to creation. Jesus then created everything else. Jesus is not considered to be equal to God at all but a lesser being.

Mormon

"As man now is, God once was...As God now is, man can become." Is a saying that accurately describes Mormon view of Jesus. Mormons believe that Jesus was created by God and is a "brother" to Satan. They

teach that Jesus was once just a man who lived on another planet. He eventually progressed to be equal to God and came to colonize planet earth with "gods to be" or humans. Unforeseen to Christ, Satan (Jesus' brother) put a kink in this plan when he deceived Adam and Eve. Jesus was then required to die for fallen man, His creation. Jesus therefore is a model for us and one day we will be equal to God and colonize other planets too. There are millions of other planets being colonized right now in the same way in other galaxies. What makes earth's colonizing process unique is Satan's deception of Adam. Jesus is the God of planet earth. The Mormon hope is eventually be given some uninhabited planet where they can be God.

Isaiah 44:6

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; **and beside me there is no God.**

That one verse destroys the very basis of Mormon teaching.

Let's look at some of the reasons that we know that Jesus is God.

I. Jesus Christ Is God Incarnate

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and **shall call his name Immanuel.**

Matthew 1:23

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, **which being interpreted is, God with us.**

According to both of these verses, Jesus was "God with us" when He walked upon this earth. He wasn't merely "God's chosen one with us" or "God's Son with us."

As I Timothy 3:16 states, "God was manifest in the flesh."

John 1:14 tells us that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."

God in the Person of Jesus Christ came to dwell with man at the Incarnation.

In Zechariah 12:10, GOD said that HE (God) would be "pierced" by sinners.

Zechariah 12:10

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

II. Jesus Christ Is Eternal

Micah 5:2 states that Jesus Christ is "from everlasting", which is exactly what Psalm 93:2 and Isaiah 63:16 say about God!

Micah 5:2

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Psalm 93:2

2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.

Isaiah 63:16

16 Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

1 John 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God, and eternal life.**

Who is the TRUE GOD? Who was John talking about in this verse?
He was speaking of Jesus.

III. Jesus Claimed Equality with God

Jesus says in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" If Jesus Christ isn't Deity, then why did He include Himself in the Holy Trinity?

Jesus says in John 14:9, "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

Is the Father someone other than Jesus Christ?
Not according to Jesus Christ.

In John 10:30, Jesus says, "I and my Father are one."

Philippians 2:6 says that Jesus was in the "form of God", and that he thought it not robbery to be "equal with God"!

The Jesus Christ of the New Testament claimed to be "one" with God and "equal" with God.

John 5:17-18

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, **making himself equal with God.**

In John 8:58, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

The term "I am" is the exact term that God used in Exodus 3:14 in reference to Himself! Jesus professed to be the eternal God of the Bible.

When Jesus made that statement, what was the reaction of the people? They picked up stones to stone Him.

They understood that He was calling Himself God.

John 8:59

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 10:30-31

30 I and my Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

IV. Jesus Christ Created All Things

The Bible proclaims that GOD is the Creator.
The first chapter of the Bible makes this very clear.

As we come to the pages of the New Testament, we discover that ALL THINGS were made by Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:16-17

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

We already saw that John 1:3 says the same thing.

John 1:3

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The One who died for you on the cross is the very One who created you.

V. Jesus Christ Forgives Man's Sins

Mark 2:5

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Notice the response of the Jewish scribes who heard Jesus say this.

Mark 2:6-7

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

If Jesus were not God, then it would have been blasphemy for Him to claim to be able to forgive sins.

But Jesus was not a mere man, He was the God-Man (perfect God and perfect Man).

There was only one reason why Jesus could forgive sins. It was because He was God.

VI. Jesus Christ Demands Our Worship

In Acts 14:11-15, the people started worshipping Barnabas and Paul.

Paul stopped them.

In Acts 10:25,26 Cornelius fell down before Peter to worship him, but Peter made him stand.

In Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9, the apostle John started to worship an angel.

The angel would not allow it.

According to Jesus, who is the only Person who should be worshipped?

Matthew 4:8-10

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Did people worship Jesus?

Matthew 14:33

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 28:9

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

John 9:38

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Jesus accepted worship.

He wanted them to honour Him just as they honour the Father (John 5:23).

The angels worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6)

In Revelation 5:8-12 "the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb."

VII. Jesus Christ is Omnipresent

Only God has the ability to be everywhere at once, yet Jesus Christ claims this ability.

In Matthew 18:20, He says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

This is only possible because He is Deity.

The same is true in Matthew 28:20 where Jesus says, "...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

VIII. Jesus Christ Is Omnipotent

He is all powerful. He has all power.

Revelation 19:6 states, "...the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

Then I Timothy 6:15 says that Jesus Christ Himself is "...the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"

If Jesus is the ONLY Potentate, then He must be the One of Revelation 19:6, God Almighty!

Also see Colossians 2:9-10, Revelation 2:26, and Matthew 28:18.

There are so many more verses that we could look at, but we have seen enough already so that we cannot deny that Jesus is God.