

The Deity of Christ (2)

Introduction

1. **The nature of Jesus Christ in the flesh has been debated since early times in the church.**
2. **Widely varying ideas have been suggested. One extreme suggests that Jesus was a natural man with a fleshly father and mother who was anointed as Son of God at his baptism by the Holy Spirit (Man became God).**
 - A. **The other extreme suggests that Deity could not exist in the flesh and that Jesus was just a ghost, without real flesh.**
 - B. **Such a unique thing as "God in the flesh" causes a sense of wonder.**

Matthew 1:23

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

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

3. **Rather than being content with what the Bible says as a matter of faith, theologians have attempted to explain the incarnation in human terms to satisfy in many cases, human inquisitiveness. Some want to know matters beyond revelation.**

Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- A. They ask questions such as:**
- 1) How could Deity put on flesh and still remain Deity?**
 - 2) Did the Human part of Jesus have a fleshly spirit separate from the divine spirit?**
 - 3) Was Jesus omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent while in the flesh?**
 - 4) How was He tempted?**
 - 5) How did He remain sinless?**
 - 6) If Jesus remained sinless, can we live sinless lives?**
 - 7) Did Jesus use divine power to resist temptation?**
- 4. While we will not list all the questions nor, possibly supply all the answers, we will look at what is revealed and be content with a "thus saith the Lord!"**
- 5. By the way, the brethren that hold to this idea that Jesus was just "an ordinary guy like you and me" will tell you that they believe in the Deity of Christ.**
- A. The correct way to ask someone about their belief in the Deity of Christ is to ask them "While on earth, do you believe that Jesus possessed all the attributes of deity?" (Meaning, was He just as much God in every way here on earth as He was in heaven)**
- 1) Then wait for your answer. Either He was and is God or He isn't. It can't be both ways.**

Jesus Is Jehovah

- 1. Even though Jesus assumed the role of a servant and clothed Himself with flesh, He was nonetheless God...God in the flesh.**

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh**, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

- 2. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jehovah. The prophecy John fulfilled was stated in Isaiah 40:3.**

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: **"Prepare the way of the LORD;** Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

- A. The word for LORD is Jehovah. Jesus is Jehovah. And Jehovah is the "I am".**

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, **'I AM has sent me to you.'** "

- B. The word God is Jehovah. Jesus was and is the divine self-existing one!**

3. **Jesus claimed to be the existing one, I AM.**

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe **that I am He**, you will die in your sins."

A. **In verse 58 He says:**

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

B. **The Jews recognized that eternal existence belongs to God. Isaiah 43:10-11**

C. **Jesus claimed to be Deity - in fact this made the Jews mad and they tried to stone Him (John 8:59).**

1) **They understood His claim of Deity and accused Him of blasphemy, worthy of death.**

Matthew 26:62-66

2) **On several occasions, the Jews were ready to stone Jesus. Not because He was an ORDINARY man like you and me, but because He made Himself equal with God, claiming to be the Son of God. Do you ever hear Jesus saying: "No, I'm just an ordinary guy like you?"**

D. **Jesus said:**

John 10:30-33

1) **The word "one" means a united one. One not in person, but in essence or nature.**

2) **Were the Jews correct in wanting to stone Jesus? Was Jesus just a man? Or was He God in the flesh? The Bible says He was God in the flesh (John 1:14)!**

Jesus Was Deity on Earth

1. The Attributes Of His Deity Was Manifested While On Earth.

A. Notice the following scriptures:

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 10:30 I and My Father are one."

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

John 5:36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

B. John was a prophet, therefore Jesus was "much more than a prophet".

C. The prophets were guided by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:16

D. So what was the witness that Jesus had that was greater than John's? (Greater than being an inspired man?)

1) It was His own Deity!

E. Jesus said:

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1) Notice that Jesus doesn't say that He knew the Way, nor taught the Way. He is the Way. No mere human being, nor ordinary man, could make this claim!

2. **He Was Omniscient On Earth. (He had divine knowledge - all knowing)**

A. **Notice the following scriptures that prove this:**

Matthew 12:25 But **Jesus knew** their thoughts.....

Luke 6:8 But **He knew** their thoughts.....

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 would betray Him.

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when **Jesus knew** that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 13:11 For **He knew** who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "**He told me all that I ever did.**"

John 2:24-25

B. The apostle Paul was not able to do this. His nephew warned him of the plot to kill him (Acts 24:16f).

C. Jesus had memory of being in Heaven with His Father before He was on Earth.

John 17:5

D. Could an ordinary guy like you and me be omniscient and even recall being with God before the world was?

3. **He Was Omnipotent On Earth (All Powerful).**

A. **Jesus had power over disease and demons.**

Matthew 12:22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and **He healed him**, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

1) **He healed the blind man in John 9:1-12.**

B. **Jesus had power over life and death.**

John 11:43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

C. **Jesus had power over nature.**

Matthew 14:25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.

1) **He turned water into wine (John 2:1-11).**

D. **Is this something that an ordinary man could do? Could Jesus, as an ordinary guy, divested of all His attributes of deity to include His power, be able to do these things?**

4. **Jesus allowed Himself to be Worshiped.**

A. **As men recognized who He was, they acknowledged Him as the "Son of God" (which expresses an equality with the Father; John 10:36,33). They worshiped Him. God and not man, is the object of worship.**

B. Jesus always allowed Himself to be Worshiped which could lawfully be done only toward God.

1) Those not God refused to be worshiped.

Revelation 22:8-9

Acts 10:25-26

Acts 14:13-15

2) Jesus allowed men to worship Him. Jesus knew that He was in fact deity and that He was God in the flesh. He was worship worthy.

John 9:35-38

(Wise men worshipping the young child – Jesus)

Matthew 2:11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him**. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

(Leper worshiped Jesus)

Matthew 8:2 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

(A ruler worshiped Jesus)

Matthew 9:18

(Other scriptures showing Jesus was worshiped)

Matthew 14:33 – Those in the boat

Matthew 15:25 – A woman

Matthew 28:9 – Disciples

Luke 24:52 – Disciples

C. At no time do you read where Jesus corrected those who confessed Him to be God, or the Son of God, and worshiped Him. He never said "No, I'm just a man, an ordinary guy, like the rest of you!"

Conclusion

- 1. The very suggestion that He would or could lose His godhood is ridiculous in view of all that God has revealed to us about Jesus.**

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

- 2. Calvinism seeks to elevate the superiority of God at the expense of man's free will.**
- 3. Those today that claim that Jesus was "just a man like you and me" are seeking to elevate man's ability to live sinlessly on earth.**
- 4. As far as we can read in the scriptures, the three persons of Deity always worked together as one.**
 - A. God did so in the creation (Genesis 1:26), and continued to do so in the work of redemption and revelation.**
- 5. Jesus was in full control of His self-imposed limitation when He came to this earth. He retained the divine nature and possessed the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9).**
 - A. He came to do the will of the Father, which is a testimony to the fact that Jehovah is a united God.**
 - B. The very suggestion that Christ could divest His nature (the characteristics that make Him who He is) is anti-scriptural.**
- 6. In our next lesson we will defend by scripture that Jesus was not "Just A Man!"**

