

The Deity of Christ (4)

Introduction

- 1. None of the points that have been made in these previous lessons were made to confuse people.**
 - A. Whatever confusion there is arises because we tend to speculate rather than accept divine revelations and not go beyond them.**

- 2. We need to nail down what the Bible teaches about the nature of Jesus. The result of which will be edifying because we can see:**
 - A. The love God has for mankind.**

 - B. The plan of redemption as summed up in Christ.**

 - C. That Jesus was willing to be a bondservant in the flesh in order to provide the sinless sacrifice and to prepare Himself to be the high priest who understands our human situations.**

 - D. That sin CAN be overcome in our life.**

 - E. The surety of God's work through Christ.**

We Can Know

1. **Jesus Existed on an Equality with God Before He Came to Earth.** **Philippians 2:5-7**

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.

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

2. **Because He existed on an equality with God, He had all the attributes of Deity such as being:**

Perfect, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, etc.

A. By definition, Deity cannot give up any of these attributes and remain Deity. Deity is not temporary or transitory.

3. **We can see that He retained His Deity on earth in that He forgave sins (Mark 2:5-12) and accepted worship (John 9:35-38; Matthew 14:33; John 20:28).**

We Can Know

1. That God the Son Became 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.

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

John 8:14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, **for I know where I came from and where I am going**; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

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

2. In doing so, Jesus both "humbled" (emptied) Himself and "took upon Him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).

A. We have already seen where He could not have emptied Himself of the attributes of Deity. So what remains?

1) We should understand that He gave up the glory that He had while in heaven.

Matthew 17:2

2 Peter 1:16-17

3. In His human form, He was a man (not JUST a man), able to suffer, bleed, be tempted and die (Hebrews 10:4-10; 1 John).

Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

A. Beneath that human form, so identical to every other human, was the Spirit of God, the Word (John 1:1f).

1) He later returned to the glory of God after His ascension (Acts 7:55; Revelation 1:12-18).

Philippians 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

We Can Know

1. While on Earth, Jesus VOLUNTARILY Limited the Divine Knowledge that He Possessed.

A. This should not seem strange since we know that Jehovah also limits His knowledge of man's actions based on his free will.

Genesis 22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now **I know that you fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

1) Therefore, as a baby and young child, Jesus could grow as a human without emptying Himself of Divinity.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

John 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**. This command I have received from My Father." **(Subjection unto the Father)**

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, **but My Father only**."

We Can Know

1. That Jesus Was Tempted Like We Are.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are**, yet without sin.

A. In all areas was Jesus tempted (lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life) Matthew 4:1f; 1 John 2:15-17).

1) That the temptations were real cannot be doubted

2) That Jesus felt the power of temptation cannot be doubted

a) But there was no answering desire in Jesus which led Him to succumb to temptation and to sin.

B. The temptation was real because it appealed to a lawful human desire, but there was no evil desire in Jesus to obey the Devil.

1) To be tempted is not the sin; the giving in to temptation is the sin.

James 1:14-15

- C. It was not necessary for Jesus to exercise His powers of Deity to refrain from sin.**
 - 1) The manner in which Jesus resisted temptation was to know who He was, the nature of sin, the desire to live godly, the desire to please His Father, the desire to return to Heaven (which He could not do if He had sinned).**

John 8:14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, **My witness is true**, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

- 2. This is the same manner in which we overcome temptation.**
 - A. We sin because we give in to the temptation - Jesus did not give in.**
 - 1) But at any given time in our life, we can overcome temptation therefore it is not written anywhere that we MUST sin. That we do sin is true (Romans 3:23).**
 - a) Some people may say "I am just human" when they sin, but we can equally say, "I am just human" when we do right!**

3. Let us not forget that Jesus was both God and Man.

- A. Though it is true that "God cannot be tempted with sin," this does not address Immanuel in His work as the Son of God.**

- B. Jehovah, in heaven, dwells "in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:16).**
 - 1) It is this state which is addressed in James 1:13.**

- C. Tom Roberts wrote:** "The Son of God came in the flesh to confront sin and defeat it. To do that, He had to be tempted, and He was (Hebrews 4:15). To deny that Jesus was tempted because He was God makes no more sense than saying that Jesus could not be God because "God is a spirit" and Jesus had flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14). Or to deny that Jesus is God because people saw him (1 John 1:1f), yet scripture says "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18). We must not confuse statements that apply to God in heaven with the statements that apply to "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)."

Conclusion

1. **Perhaps all of us can learn from this study of the Deity of Christ that we must not go beyond what is written.**
1 Corinthians 4:6
2. **While it is true that man does not have to sin and that Jesus became a man, we cannot draw the conclusion therefore that Jesus was "ONLY A MAN, AN ORDINARY GUY LIKE YOU AND ME".**
3. **As we diligently work to defeat error, let us not be guilty of creating new error.**
4. **I hope and pray that this study has been profitable for you.**
 - A. **That you have a better understanding of the Godhead and that Jesus was in fact God as He dwelt here on earth.**

