

Part The Doctrine of Christ – The Deity of Christ

The Deity of Christ

A. Introduction

- Coming off the heels of our last lesson concerning the virgin birth of Christ, we now want to look at one of the most important doctrines of Christ and that is his deity.
- Jesus was much more than just a “good man,” as some religions teach. He is in fact, God in the flesh.
- Many false cults such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses, try to deny the deity of Christ. They flat out refuse to accept the fact that Jesus and God are one.
- If Jesus was not God then we have no Savior.
- The teaching of the deity of Christ is scattered throughout both the Old and New Testaments:
 - **Psalms 45:6-7** Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
 - **Hebrews 1:8-9** 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. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
 - **Daniel 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

B. Jesus Christ is referred to as Lord

- The disciples referred to Jesus as Lord on many occasions:
 - **Matthew 8:23-27** *And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!*
 - The word “**Lord**” as used here comes from the Greek word **Kurios**, which means “**supreme in authority**,” it is also a title for the **Messiah**.
- Those with diseases that came to him looking for a miracle also referred to him as Lord such as the Lepers:
 - **Matthew 8:2** *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.*
- Jesus referred to Himself as “Lord”
 - **Matthew 12:8** *For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.*
 - **John 9:35-38** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*
- Jesus is referred to as Lord in the Old Testament
 - **Psalms 110:1** *The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*
 - This is a very interesting verse as it uses “**LORD**” as in **Yahweh** or **Jehovah**, and also in the same verse uses it in the form of “**Lord**” as in **Adoni**, meaning “**sovereign, controller, Lord Master.**”
 - We know from reading in the New Testament that David was referring to the Messiah, as we read in: **Matthew 22:41-46** *While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. 43 He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions. (same thing is mentioned in Mark 12:35-36 and Luke 20:41-44)*
 - Also, it is backed up in the Book of Acts, the Apostle Peter mentions the same passage: **Acts 2:32-36** *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

C. The virgin birth would be God coming to live with men

- **Isaiah 7:14** *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - This is actually interpreted for us in the New Testament when the angel comes to Joseph in a dream to reveal unto him the truth concerning the baby that Mary was carrying: **Matthew 1:23** *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.*

D. The Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, was given divine names in prophecy

- **Isaiah 9:6-7** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.** 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*
 1. **Wonderful** – **Luke 18:19b**: *...none is good, save one, that is, God.*
 2. **Counsellor** – **Psalms 16:7a**: *I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel...*
 3. **The mighty God** – **Luke 24:19b**: *And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:*
 4. **The everlasting Father** – **John 10:30** *I and my Father are one.*
 5. **The Prince of Peace** – **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

E. The Christ who was prophesied to come was to be from “everlasting”

- **Micah 5:2** *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, 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.*

F. God and Christ both gave their personal names as “I Am”

- **Exodus 3:14** *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*
- **John 8:58** *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

G. Jesus Christ forgave sins

- **Mark 2:5** *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

H. Jesus claimed equality with the Father and the Holy Spirit

- **Matthew 28:18-20** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- **2 Corinthians 13:14** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

I. Jesus was recognized as God by the early New Testament Church

- **1 Corinthians 8:5-6** *For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

J. Jesus claimed omnipresence (the presence of God everywhere at the same time)

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

K. Jesus claimed omniscience (the state of knowing everything)

- **Mark 11:2-6** *And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. 3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither. 4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. 5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt? 6 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go.*
- **Matthew 12:40** *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
- **Matthew 24:3-31** – Jesus teaching concerning the end of the ages and the coming of the Son of Man.

L. Jesus claimed omnipotence (having unlimited power)

- **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

M. Jesus Christ had creative power

- **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- **Hebrews 1:3** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
- **Colossians 1:16-17** *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.*

N. Jesus Christ had power over the elements

- **Luke 8:24** *And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.*
- **Mark 4:39** *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*
- **Matthew 14:25-26** *And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.*

O. Jesus Christ received worship due only to God

- **John 9:35-38** *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? 36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? 37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. 38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*
- **Luke 4:8** *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

P. Jesus Christ accepted the testimony of Thomas

- **John 20:26-29** *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 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.*

Q. The fact of Jesus' resurrection proves his deity

- **Romans 1:3-4** *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*
- **Romans 6:3-4** *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

R. Conclusion

- When I was going through the Master's of Ministry course at Crown College, whenever Pastor Sexton talked about Jesus and God being one, he would often make this statement: "God became man without ceasing to be God. He was robed in flesh; He came and dwelt among us."¹
- Jesus is God because he contains the 10 exclusive attributes of God;
 1. He is eternal
 2. He is unchangeable
 3. He is omnipotent
 4. He is omnipresent
 5. He is omniscient
 6. He is holy
 7. He is just
 8. He is loving
 9. He is merciful
 10. He is faithful
- Five works of God are attributed to Jesus;
 1. Creation
 2. Preservation
 3. Forgiveness
 4. Raising the dead
 5. Judgement

¹ Sexton, C. (2009). *Following Christ and Fishing for Men: Becoming a Faithful Witness*. Powell, TN: Crown Christian Publications.