

“Who Do Men Say That I Am?”

The Deity of Jesus!

On Your Own!

In the space provided below, give any Scriptures that you know which proves that Jesus Christ is God. Please DO NOT look ahead in this lesson nor search on your Smart-Phone!

Introduction...

The Deity of Jesus is one of the ESSENTIAL beliefs of the Christian Faith! It is VITAL for Followers of Jesus to understand the Essential Historical Christian Beliefs; it begins today with the DEITY OF JESUS!

Please understand, a house is only as strong as it's foundation. Even the smallest crack that is imperceptible to the eye can cause major damage to the whole building. It's the same for our faith. There are a lot of people out there who identify themselves as Christians, yet they believe (and teach!) a variety of doctrines. Some are non-essential to salvation and fellowship (unity), while others are mandatory, and either support or contradict the “Essential Beliefs” of the Faith.

The Deity of Jesus Christ is one of Christianities most important doctrinal beliefs! It is the foundation of the Christian Faith, and for the preaching of the Gospel message! This belief is what distinguishes Christianity from all other religions. Failure to believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ constitutes both an abandonment of the true Christian Faith, and is tantamount to preaching another gospel!

Despite the very clear teachings of the Bible on the Deity of Jesus Christ, there are many within Christianity, who do not believe in the Deity of Jesus! They either believe that Jesus was: A good moral teacher (Like Gandhi),.....or was partially God,.....or a glorified human being,.....or simply a Prophet.

*These kinds of beliefs nullify that person's ability to proclaim the uniqueness of Jesus and the Life-changing effect of His Gospel and His Kingdom! This is NOT what the Bible teaches nor what true Christians throughout the ages have believed about the nature of Jesus Christ! Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is God! Belief in Jesus as God is "**THE**" necessary element supporting the truth of Christianity, which includes the truth of the Bible; the truth of our worship; the truth of our salvation; and everything else the historical Church of Jesus Christ believes!*

*Historical Christianity has declared this in 2-VERY important documents of the Body of Christ! They are the "**Apostles Creed**" and the "**Nicene Creed**!"*

THE APOSTLES CREED

The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles. Rather, it was written at least 150 years after the apostles had all died. It is called the Apostles' Creed because it is a record of what the apostles taught. The Apostles' Creed is as follows:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, *the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

* The holy catholic church," this does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church as we know it today. The word *catholic* means "universal." The true "catholic" church is all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

THE NICENE CREED

Other than the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed is likely the most universally accepted and recognized statements of the Christian faith. The Nicene Creed was first adopted in A.D. 325 at the Council of Nicea. The Roman Emperor Constantine had convened the Council of Nicea in an attempt to unify the Christian church with one doctrine, especially on the issues of the Trinity and the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ.

The Nicene Creed reads as follows:

"We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

"And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

LESSON TEXT: John 1:1-18 NIV.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**Lesson
Exposition...**

I. THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

- a. John is one of the _____ Gospels.
- b. John stands alone among the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are the Synoptic Gospels (means "seeing together"). They are very much alike in language, material they cover, and order of events. Much of what is contained in one is contained in the others.
- c. The synoptics emphasize _____ Jesus did and _____ He went!
- d. John emphasizes _____ Jesus is
 - i. His Deity!

- ii. He is God!
- iii. He is the 2nd Person of the Trinity!

II. What was John's purpose for writing the Gospel of John?

- a. John 20:30-31 is the "signature" verse in the book of John. "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
- b. The "KEY" word in the book of John is the verb "_____." Which comes from the Greek: *pisteuo*), which appears 98 times.
- c. The noun form of the word (Greek: *pistis* "faith") does not occur at all.
 - i. This phenomenon shows that John wanted to stress the importance of active, vital trust in Jesus.
 - ii. We are exhorted to believe. It is an action verb.

III. EXPOSITION---Vss. 1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- a. John uses a VERY important word in John 1:1, it is the word....."_____!"
- b. This is the Biblical Greek word "_____", according to Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament words means: "Something *said* (including the *thought*); by implication a *topic* (subject of discourse), specifically the *Divine Expression*."
- c. When John uses the Greek word *logos* (which is translated Word) it had rich associations for the Jews.
 - i. To a Jew, *logos* was the word by which God spoke the world into existence, by which He guided the prophets, by which He delivered His people.
 - ii. John's use of that word would catch their attention. In the mind of the ancient Jews, the phrase "the word of God" was used to refer to God Himself.
 - iii. To them it was the same as saying, "God became flesh and made His dwelling among us."
- d. John, in speaking to the Jews, used this word very purposely!

- i. The Jews knew that by the use of this particular word, John was ascribing to Jesus _____, and the creation itself!
- e. This same word usage is associated with Genesis 1.
 - i. Both the Genesis 1 account of creation, and John 1, are talking about the _____ creation and the SAME Creator!
 - ii. Jesus is the Creator of ALL things, because Jesus isGOD!
- f. In verses 1 & 2, we are introduced to the “_____” of Jesus Christ!
- g. He was in the beginning with God makes the point that the Father is distinct from the Son, and the Son distinct from the Father.
 - i. They are _____ God, yet they are _____ persons.
 - ii. They have differing roles yet they are the same.
 - iii. Jesus existed from the beginning, He was with God in the beginning, and He was God.
- h. Verse 3 John identifies the attributes of Jesus:
 - i. He is _____ of all things (verses 3 & 10).
 - i. The God who created the universe is the One who was found lying in a Bethlehem manger.
 - ii. In Genesis 1:1 where it says “God created” the Hebrew word for God is _____ which is the plural form of the noun for God which allows for the existence of the triune God.
 - 1. Both father and Son are God, yet there are not two Gods.
- j. The “light” that John refers to in verse 5 is the light of _____!
 - i. His _____ and _____!
 - ii. Darkness (evil; sin) can never overcome or extinguish the Light of God through Christ!
 - 1. No matter how dark or evil it gets, the light of Jesus is ALWAYS Greater than the darkness!
 - 2. This is WHY every Follower of Jesus needs to understand His _____, and know how to communicate it!

IV. EXPOSITION Verses 6-8.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

- a. Quite simply and straightforward, John is heading off any possible error concerning who he is, and his relationship with the Word of God (Jesus)!
 - i. John is merely a “_____” or one who “POINTS” to Jesus!
 - ii. A witness “TESTIFY” to what he knows!
 - 1. what John knows is, JESUS IS GOD!

V. EXPOSITION Verses 9-16.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

- a. Verse 11 says Jesus came to His own.
 - i. He is referring to the Jews.
- b. The Jews had been waiting for hundreds of years for the _____ to come.
- c. Why did they not recognize Jesus?
 - i. Ignorance and blindness caused by sin.
 - ii. Their hearts were hard/not right with God.
 - iii. They were not open to the unexpected---they had become merely RELIGIOUS Jews, following the “words” of men instead of the “WORD” Himself!
- d. Not everyone rejected Jesus. Many received Him and became children of God.
 - i. Children of God here refers to those in _____ Father/Son or Father/Daughter relationships!

- ii. Not all people are “CHILDREN OF GOD!”
- iii. Only is God the “FATHER” of all people in the sense of “_____!”
 - 1. In other words, God is the “CREATOR” of all people, but not “INTIMATE” as a Father/Child relationship, until they are “REBORN” spiritually through Jesus Christ!

e. How does one enter into this intimate relationship with God?

- i. By receiving Jesus?
- ii. By believing in Him/on His name. (John 20:30-31)
- iii. By placing your faith in His finished work on the cross.
- iv. Accept by faith who He is and what He’s done. Believe in Him as your personal savior.

- 1. You don’t get to be a child of God by being physically born as a Jew (or into a Christian family).

f. The two types of births referred to here in our passage are:

- i. _____ birth from sexual union of parents.
- ii. Born of God. Or, _____ / _____ birth.

- 1. Our spiritual birth does not originate from, or through, human intent or endeavor.

- 2. It is a work of God. Becoming a child of God involves being born of God.

g. Jesus became one of us as John describes here.

- i. All others _____ are a picture of man reaching up to God, trying to earn God’s favor, trying to please God by doing good.
- ii. _____ is a picture of God reaching down to man, offering grace.

VI. EXPOSITION Verses 17-18.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

VII. The distinction between the _____ Covenant and the _____ Covenant is seen here in the person of the “Law-Giver” and the “Grace and Truth-Giver!”

- a. Moses gave the Law---Old Covenant.
- b. Jesus gave Grace and Truth---New Covenant

- i. Jesus gave us what we could NOT do;.....The FULFILLMENT of God’s Divine Law and standard of RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- c. He did not come to _____ WITH or _____ the Law, for that SHOWED us God’s standard of Righteousness, but rather to “FULFILL” God’s Law but meeting His Holy Standards as the “Second Adam,” who THIS TIME,.....Obeyed God and did not sin and rebel!

Understanding Spiritual Truth!

Matthew 5:17---Jesus Said:

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Galatians 3:23-29

²³ Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. ²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. ²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.

In Conclusion...

Colossians 2:8-10

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority!”