



The Essentials: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine
Class #4 – Jesus Christ

I. **The Deity of Christ**

a. Let's look at the Deity of Christ

- i. Although Jesus is fully Man (Humanity), He is also fully God (Deity) – He is the God-Man
- ii. During the early centuries of church history there were groups who arose on the scene that denied the fully humanity of Christ
- iii. However, the opposite is true for today, there are scores of groups who deny the full Deity of Christ
- iv. A common denominator between religious cults and world religions is the denial of the Deity of Christ
- v. Yet, the Scriptures are clear, Old and New Testament, the Lord Jesus is fully God and He is fully Man

b. Now, if Jesus is not God there are several serious repercussions that follow:

- i. **First**, if Jesus is not God, He made false claims to be God (He is a Liar) – *“I and My Father are One”* Cf. **John 10:30**
- ii. **Second**, if Jesus is not God, He would not be a sufficient sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world because of His sinfulness and limits (His sacrifice would not have been perfect and eternal) – *“Redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* Cf. **1 Peter 1:18,19**
- iii. **Third**, if Jesus is not God, Christianity would not differ in kind (quality) from other religions – *“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”* Cf. **1 Corinthians 15:17**
- iv. **Fourth**, if Jesus is not God, Mankind would have no mediator with God (only someone who is fully God and fully Man can mediate between God and Man) – *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”* Cf. **1 Timothy 2:5**

c. But, if Jesus is God there are several implications that follow:

- i. **First**, if Jesus is God, everything He said is true (He said the only way to God was through Him, He said the Bible is the Word of God, etc.) – *“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to God except through Me.”* Cf. **John 14:6**
- ii. **Second**, if Jesus is God, there is assurance of salvation and life after death in Him – *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* Cf. **John 3:36**
- iii. **Third**, if Jesus is God, Mankind has a moral obligation to worship and obey Him – *“That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”* Cf. **John 5:23**
- iv. **Fourth**, if Jesus is God, all of Mankind has a decision to make – *“But who do you say that I am?”* Cf. **Matthew 16:15**

d. Therefore, as you can see, the Deity of Christ is an important, essential, crucial doctrine of our faith

- i. And I want to share with you **three biblical reasons** why we believe Jesus is God as taught by the New Testament

- ii. Sadly, many people and groups make the argument that the Bible, specifically the New Testament, doesn't teach that Jesus is God – they accept the authority of the Scriptures, yet deny the Deity of Christ
- iii. However, I am going to show you that the New Testament clearly portrays and proclaims Jesus Christ as God Almighty

II. 1st – “The *Divine Attributes* possessed by Christ”

- a. The first thing we want to look at to make our case for the Deity of Christ is the divine attributes possessed by Christ
 - i. The New Testament teaches us that Jesus possesses metaphysical attributes which are uniquely and distinctively defined to be Divine
 - ii. Qualities, characteristics, essential traits that only God can possess – let's briefly look at five of them:
- b. First, Christ is Eternal
 - i. The Lord Jesus had no beginning and has no end, but He always existed and He will always exist
 - ii. **Hebrews 1:10-12** – *“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and Your years will not fail.”* Cf. also see Proverbs 30:4; John 8:58; John 17:5
 - iii. God is Eternal – *“The eternal God is your refuge”* Cf. **Deuteronomy 33:27**
- c. Second, Christ is Immutable
 - i. The Lord Jesus cannot and does not change, but He remains the same
 - ii. **Hebrews 13:8** – *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*
 - iii. God is Immutable – *“For I am the LORD, I do not change”* Cf. **Malachi 3:6**
- d. Third, Christ is Omniscient
 - i. The Lord Jesus is all-knowing – He knows all things
 - ii. **Colossians 2:3** – *“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* Cf. also see John 2:24, 4:29, 6:70, 12:33, 13:1, 16:30; Luke 6:8, 11:17; Matthew 16:21, 24-25
 - iii. God is Omniscient – *“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”* Cf. **1 John 3:20**
- e. Fourth, Christ is Omnipresent
 - i. The Lord Jesus is all-present – He is present everywhere at once
 - ii. **Matthew 28:20b** – *“...I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* Cf. also see Matthew 18:20; John 14:23; Ephesians 3:17; Revelation 3:20
 - iii. God is Omnipresent – *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”* Cf. **Hebrews 4:14**
- f. Fifth, Christ is Omnipotent
 - i. The Lord Jesus is all-powerful – there is no limit to His power, but He can do all things in accordance with His nature
 - ii. **Revelation 1:8** – *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* Cf. also see Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 28:18
 - iii. God is Omnipotent – *“Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.”* Cf. **Jeremiah 32:17**

“Jesus and Jehovah of the Old Testament share the same nature”

Jesus	Jehovah
Is the Shepherd Cf. John 10:11	Is the Shepherd Cf. Psalm 23:1
Is the I Am Cf. John 8:58	Is the I Am Cf. Exodus 3:14
Is the Creator Cf. John 1:3	Is the Creator Cf. Genesis 1:1
Is the First and the Last Cf. Revelation 1:17	Is the First and the Last Cf. Isaiah 44:6
Is God Cf. Titus 2:13	Is God Cf. Isaiah 43:10
Is the Savior Cf. Acts 4:12	Is the Savior Cf. Isaiah 43:11
Is the Forgiver of Sins Cf. Mark 2:5	Is the Forgiver of Sins Cf. Jeremiah 31:34
Is Addressed in Prayer Cf. Acts 7:59	Is Addressed in Prayer Cf. Daniel 9:4
Is Confessed as Lord Cf. Philippians 2:10	Is Confessed as Lord Cf. Isaiah 45:23
Is Worshipped by Angels Cf. Hebrews 1:6	Is Worshipped by Angels Cf. Psalm 148:2
Is Unchanging Cf. Hebrews 13:8	Is Unchanging Cf. Malachi 3:6
Is Eternal Cf. Micah 5:2	Is Eternal Cf. Deuteronomy 33:27

III. 2nd – “The Divine Worship received by Christ”

- a. The second thing we want to look at to make our case for the Deity of Christ is the divine worship received by Christ
 - i. The Gospels record the Lord Jesus receiving worship on at least nine separate occasions
 - ii. Although the New Testament records holy men (Acts 10:25-26, 14:14-15) and holy angels (Revelation 22:8-9) refusing worship, Jesus never refused worship offered to Him, but received it with no problem
 - iii. Since the Old Testament clearly commands the worship of God alone (Exodus 20:1-6), and Jesus Himself declared that God was only to be worshipped (Matthew 4:10), for Jesus to receive worship if He was not God would be blasphemy and idolatry – **“If Jesus is not God, Heaven is filled with idol worshippers”**
 - iv. However, the Scriptures not only inform us that Jesus was worshipped as God, but they command us to worship Him as God
 - v. **John 5:23** – **“That all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father, He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him”** Cf. see also Philippians 2:8-11; Revelation 5:12-13
- b. Let’s take a brief look at the nine separate times the Lord Jesus received worship as recorded in the Gospels:
 - i. **First**, the Lord Jesus received worship from a healed leper in Matthew 8:2
 - ii. **Second**, the Lord Jesus received worship from a ruler whose son Jesus had healed in Matthew 9:18
 - iii. **Third**, the Lord Jesus received worship from the disciples after a storm in Matthew 14:33
 - iv. **Fourth**, the Lord Jesus received worship from a Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:25
 - v. **Fifth**, the Lord Jesus received worship from the mother of James and John in Matthew 20:20
 - vi. **Sixth**, the Lord Jesus received worship from a Garasene Demoniac in Mark 5:6
 - vii. **Seventh**, the Lord Jesus received worship from a healed blind man in John 9:38
 - viii. **Eighth**, the Lord Jesus received worship from all the disciples in Matthew 28:17
 - ix. **Ninth**, the Lord Jesus received worship from Thomas who declared to Christ, **“My Lord and My God”** in John 20:28

- c. Revelation 5:11-12 – “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’”

IV. **3rd – “The Divine Names ascribed to Christ”**

- a. The third thing we want to look at to make our case for the Deity of Christ is the divine names ascribed to Christ by His apostles
- i. Throughout the New Testament, divine names and titles are often ascribed to the Lord Jesus Christ by His apostles
 - ii. These divine names and titles ascribed to Christ clearly demonstrate the Deity of Christ – Let’s look at a few of them:
- b. The Apostle Paul:
- i. The apostle Paul referred to Christ as the “*eternally blessed God*” in Romans 9:5
 - ii. The apostle Paul tells us that before Christ existed in the form of man, He existed in the “*form of God*” in Philippians 2:6
 - iii. The apostle Paul tells us that Christ is the “*image of the invisible God*” in Colossians 1:15
 - iv. The apostle Paul tells us that in Christ “*dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*” in Colossians 2:9
 - v. The apostle Paul refers to Christ as our “*Great God and Savior*” in Titus 2:13
- c. The apostle John:
- i. The apostle John refers to Christ as the “*Word*” and as “*God*” in John 1:1 and John 1:14
 - ii. The apostle John refers to Christ as the “*Son of God*” in John 20:31 and he shares with us that this title is a title of Deity in John 5:18
 - iii. The apostle John refers to Christ as the “*true God*” and “*eternal life*” in 1 John 5:21
- d. The apostle Peter:
- i. The apostle Peter refers to Christ as our “*God and Savior*” in 2 Peter 1:1
- e. The apostle Matthew:
- i. The apostle Matthew refers to Christ as “*Immanuel*” which means “*God with us*” in Matthew 1:23
- f. The apostle Thomas:
- i. The apostle Thomas declares these words to Christ, “*My Lord and My God*” in John 20:28
- g. The author of the Hebrews:
- i. The author of the Hebrews refers to Christ as “*God*” in Hebrews 1:8-9
- h. Therefore, whether it is the *Divine Titles* ascribed to Christ, the *Divine Worship* received by Christ, or the *Divine Attributes* possessed by Christ – without a doubt we can conclude that the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is fully God!

V. **The Works of Christ**

- a. Let’s look at the Works of Christ
- i. Often times the works of Christ are categorized under the three-fold division of offices He possesses: Prophet, Priest, and King
 - ii. In the Old Testament, there were three major offices among the people of Israel – the Prophet, the Priest, and the King

- iii. These three offices were *distinct* – the prophet spoke God’s word to the people, the priest offered sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God on behalf of the people, and the king ruled over God’s people as His representative
- iv. However, although these offices were distinct, they shared one thing in *common* – they were all inaugurated by the anointing of oil
- v. E.g. Prophet (1 Kings 19:16), Priest (Exodus 30:30), and King (1 Samuel 10:1)
- b. Now, these three offices prophetically pointed towards the works Christ, *the Anointed One*, would perfectly accomplish upon His arrival – Let’s briefly look at them:

VI. **1st – “Christ works as Prophet”**

- a. First, as prophet, the Lord Jesus communicated God’s *message* to us
 - i. **John 8:26** – *“I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”*
 - ii. **John 15:15** – *“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you”*
- b. Second, as prophet, the Lord Jesus revealed God’s *character* to us
 - i. **John 1:18** – *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him”*
 - ii. **John 14:9** – *“...He who has seen Me has seen the Father...”*

VII. **2nd – “Christ works as Priest”**

- a. First, as priest, the Lord Jesus offered a *perfect sacrifice* for sin – Himself
 - i. **Galatians 1:3-4** – *“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”*
 - ii. **Hebrews 9:26** – *“...He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”*
- b. Second, as priest, the Lord Jesus *intercedes* for His people
 - i. **Romans 8:34** – *“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”*
 - ii. **Hebrews 7:25** – *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*

VIII. **3rd – “Christ works as King”**

- a. First, as king, the Lord Jesus *reigns* over all the universe
 - i. **1 Peter 3:21-22** – *“Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”*
 - ii. **Matthew 28:18** – *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”*
 - iii. **Revelation 19:16** – *“And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords”*
- b. Second, as king, the Lord Jesus will *judge* the universe
 - i. **Acts 17:30-31** – *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*
 - ii. **Romans 2:16** – *“God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ”*
 - iii. **2 Timothy 4:1** – *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”*