

2015 Christmas Series:

“Jesus Is... – The God Man”

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."*

NVI - *"Él es la imagen del Dios invisible, el primogénito de toda creación, porque por medio de él fueron creadas todas las cosas en el cielo y en la tierra, visibles e invisibles, sean tronos, poderes, principados o autoridades: todo ha sido creado por medio de él y para él."*

Introduction: *"As we look around, once again Christmas is upon us! Everywhere we look, people are **shopping**, stores are **decorating**, and families are **anticipating** holiday get togethers! When you do come together at Christmas, it'll be a wonderful opportunity for you to speak about the true meaning of Christmas: **Jesus Christ!** Now, when that happens, some in your family may ask you: **"What's the big deal about Jesus? Why are you so focused on Him, and excited about Him during Christmas?"***

We want to help you with that , and so today we are starting our Christmas Message Series: **"Jesus is _____."** Together, we will explore the beauty, the power, and the wonder of who the Bible declares Jesus Christ to be...and what we discover may shock and surprise you!!

*"If you cannot say **"Jesus is precious to me,"** I do not care what church you belong to, or what creed you are ready to die for. You do not know the Truth of God unless **the Person of Christ is dear to you...**It would be worthwhile to die a thousand painful deaths in order to get **one brief glimpse of Christ as He truly is!"** - Spurgeon*

#1 - **The REPRESENTER!** (v.15a) - **"He is the image of the invisible God.."**

NLT - "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God."

AMP - "He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible].."

Greek word "**εἰκών**" or "**eikōn**" in English "**icon**" - Jesus is the very stamp of God the Father!

- 1. **A Likeness** - As with a stamped/minted coin.
- 2. **A Manifestation** - As with a photograph or painting.
- Greek language would have enabled Paul to say Christ was "similar" to the Father - but he didn't!! Paul speaks of their **EQUALITY** and **DIVINITY!!**

1 Tim 3:16 - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh...**"

- "The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding." - **Martin Luther**

Heb 1:1-2 - "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His **Son...the express image of His person...**"

John 14:6-9 - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "**Lord, show us the Father**, and it is sufficient for us." 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..**"

"God Himself became a Man, to give us a concrete, definite, tangible idea of what to think of when we think of God." - **H. Halley**

#2 - **The MASTER!** (v.15b) - **"..the firstborn over all creation."**

NLT - "He **existed before anything** was created and is **supreme over all creation**.."

- Greek word "**πρωτότοκος**" or "**prōtotokos**" - Priority and Supremacy!!
- This speaks of a completely **DIFFERENT CATEGORY** of being - **HIGH ABOVE** and **SUPREME OVER** all Creation!

Christ is EXHALTED by the Father - "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." - Phil 2:9-11 (Isa 45:23 - "YHWH")

Christ is EQUAL to the Father - "I and My Father are One." - John 10:30

Christ shares the ESSENCE of the Father - GODHOOD! - "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1

This was always believed by the **EARLY CHURCH**:

- "**..in one LORD JESUS CHRIST, the only-begotten son 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 except **GOD** could have carried your sins and mine and cast them all away? Who except **GOD** could have intervened to rescue us from the jaws of hell's lions, and bring us up from the pit, having found a ransom? On whom except **GOD** could we rely on to protect us from the innumerable temptations that beset us? How can **CHRIST** be less than **GOD** when He says, 'I am with you always, even until the end of the age?' (Mt 28:20) How could He be omnipresent if He were not **GOD**? How could he hear our prayers, the prayers of millions scattered throughout the earth, and attend to them all, and give acceptance to all, if He were not infinite in understanding and

infinite in goodness?" - Spurgeon

#3 - The CREATOR! (v.16) - "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, **visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created **through Him and for Him.**"**

- **John 1:3** - "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."
- **Heb 1:2,3** - "...through the Son, God created the universe...He sustains everything by the mighty power of his command."

Jesus, the Eternal Creator called all Time, Space, Matter, and Energy into **EXISTENCE** ...out of **NOTHINGNESS!!**

What does this tell us about the Nature of Christ??

- **He is Transcendent** - Christ is beyond the universe, and separate from the universe.
- **He is Eternal** - Christ has no beginning, and no ending - Christ has always existed.
- **He is All-powerful** - Christ is unlimited and infinite in His divine power.
- "*Swaddling clothes camouflaged the King of Glory.*" - **Byron Stewart**

"All things were created through Him and for Him."

- All things, physical and spiritual, were made **for Christ!!**
- **Things are designed for a specific purpose...car, plane, iPhone... YOU!!**

Ecc 3:11 - "He has set eternity in the hearts of men.."

Pascal - "There is a God-shaped hole in the human heart. Only Christ can fill it!"

Augustine - "...our hearts are restless, until we find our rest in You!"

John 20:28 (Thomas said to the risen Christ) "My Lord and my God!"

*"What the sun is to the day, what the moon is to the night, what the water is to the flower, such is Jesus Christ to us. What bread is to the hungry, clothes to the naked, the cool shadow of a great rock to a tired traveler in a foreign land, such is Jesus Christ to us! ...As the river seeks the ocean, so Jesus, I seek You! O let me find You, and melt my life into Yours!" - **Charles Spurgeon***