

The Study of Christ (Christology)

Part 1 - The Deity of Christ

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever.

The Deity of Christ in the Old Testament

- **Son of David** (2 Sam. 7:12-13, 16; Psalm 2:6-7; 45:6-7; 72; Is. 9:6-7)
 - One will come who will reign on David's throne forever.
 - Among other titles/references, this King is referred to as the Son of God (Ps. 2) and "Everlasting Father" (Is. 9).
- **Son of Man**
 - *"13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed." - Daniel 7:13-14*

The Deity of Christ in the New Testament

- **Jesus Made Claims of Deity**
 - Jesus repeatedly claimed that God was His Father and even claimed to be one with the Father (John 10:30).
 - Jesus forgave sins (Matt. 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12).
 - Jesus claimed to preexist Abraham (John 8:58).
 - Jesus repeatedly used the language of "I Am" that seemed to make connection to the name of Yahweh.
 - Jesus claimed that He would judge all nations (John 5:22-30, Matt. 25:31-46).
 - The Jewish religious leaders recognized these claims to be blasphemy.
- **The New Testament Authors Claim Jesus is Divine**
 - Jesus is described as both being God and performing the very works of God (John 1:1-3, 14-18; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-4).

- Jesus is called God and Lord (Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 2:11; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13).
- Jesus is presented as the object of the believer's faith and trust (John 14:1; 17:3; 2 Cor. 5:15; Eph. 3:12; 5:23; Col. 1:27; 1 Thes 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:1).
- Jesus is presented as the object of the believer's worship (Matt 2:10-11, 28:17; John 5:23; Phil. 2:9–11; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:12).
- The NT authors state that Jesus was preexistent as the eternal Son of God prior to His incarnation (1 Cor. 8:6; 10:4, 9; 2 Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4; Rom 8:3; Col. 1:15-20; Phil 2:6; 1 Tim 1:15; 3:16; 2 Tim 1:9-10).

The Deity of Christ Affirmed by the Church

- **Church Councils that Clarified the Deity of Christ** - Nicea (325), Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451)
 - “And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.” - The Nicene Creed

The Importance of the Deity of Christ

- **The deity of Christ matters for revelation** (John 1:18; 14:9; Heb. 1:1-2).
- **The deity of Christ matters for salvation** (Psalm 49:7-9, 15; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- **The deity of Christ matters for the Christian life** (Luke 6:46; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5).

Questions for Discussion and Application

- In what ways do we currently see people questioning or denying the deity of Christ? In what ways are we sometimes guilty of neglecting the deity of Christ? What questions do you still have about the deity of Christ?