

Theanthropos—Creator King

“The God-Man”—Expositions of the Incarnation of Christ



Main point: John provides evidence for the deity of Jesus so that readers might believe it and commit their lives to Him.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being.

JOHN 1:3

INTRODUCTION:

John’s opening words are staggering. What John tells us, in essence, is this: the same unfettered sovereignty manifested in creation was revealed in the Person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Who is it that speaks, and the winds obey? Who is it that commands and hidden invisible evil spirits obey? Who is it that speaks, and disease and decay reverse their course, and new life is restored? Who is it that stops a funeral where death has choked out life with its vise grip and commands resurrection life to return, and it does? Only Jesus.

In only twenty words in English, fewer in the Greek, John declares in verse 3 that everything in the universe that exists is created, sustained, and subject to its Creator—the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the macrocosm in the furthest galaxies yet to be discovered by man to the microcosm of sub-nuclear particles, all created reality exists, according to John, because of Jesus Christ; and in Him, it *adheres* or *holds* together.

The burning question is, *Does the God who brought these things into being, exercise real, constant control over all things? In other words, who rules and who governs every part of life?*

The personal question is, *is it possible to know Him in an intimate, warm, and saving way?* The entirety of John’s gospel is written to persuade you and me that the answer is YES! When John says, “Jesus is God,” what does He mean? With unmistakable clarity, our text sets one truth before us: the Deity of Christ.

EXPOSITION:

There are three simple headings I want to place before you to help unpack this doctrine and guide our thinking on this subject. Would you consider with me, the deity of Christ—1) *biblically defined*, 2) *explicitly stated*, and 3) *practically applied*?

A. The Deity of Christ Biblically Defined

Two undeniable proofs of the deity of Christ are offered in this verse. Proof number one, the Creator of all things must Himself be uncreated. Proof number two, throughout the Bible—in both the Old and New Testaments—God is portrayed (set forth) as the Creator (*Gen.1:1; Ps.102:25; Is.40:28; 42:5; 45:18*). In verse 3, what John wants us to know is that the eternal Son—or the Word, who became flesh (*1:14*)—is, in fact, the Creator of the universe. To cover all sides and in the middle, John states it from *the positive point of view* and then gives us a striking contrast in the second part by saying the same truth from *a negative point of view*. First, the positive view.

1. Jesus is the originator of creation—“All things came into being through Him...”

Explained: The words “all things” are one word in Greek (*pas*), and it leaves no room for exceptions. It means *each and every part that applies*. I’ve studied the word “all” in both the Hebrew and the Greek, and I’ve discovered that “all” means *all*, and that’s *all*, *all* means. Everything that is created, from the 100 billion galaxies in the universe to the smallest particles of an atom (proton, electron, neutron), is the creation of *Jesus Christ*. Both *invisible* and *visible*, on land, in the sea below, and in the skies above. Everything in the universe was made and put there by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Applied: Now, what that means for you is that because Jesus Christ is the Creator God of all things, we can trust such a God with everything. It also means that because He is Creator, He knows just what His creation and His people need.

2. Jesus is the sustainer of creation—“All things came into being through Him.”

Explained: This truth is found in the phrase “came into being...” (*ginomai*). “All things came into being through Him.” What did the Creator use to create the world? Nothing. The world was not created out of some preexisting matter or eternal primordial goo. But instead, *out of nothing*, God spoke, and everything that has come into being came into being. Creation is not the result of some evolutionary process. The writer to the Hebrews adds,

- **Hebrews 11:3**—By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

What this truth implies is that *everything that is created by Christ owes its dependence upon Him*. In other words, Jesus Christ not only *created* the world, but He also sustains and upholds it. The author of Hebrews opens his epistle with this very declaration.

- **Hebrews 1:3**—And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

He is the glue of the galaxies, the mighty Atlas who upholds the world and, as the song puts it,

He's got the whole world in His hands, (along with the itty, bitty baby and you/me sister and brother)¹

Applied: This truth is a crucial polemic (defense) for every believer today. When you talk to your Buddhist or Hindu neighbor or co-worker, remember, they have been erroneously taught that there is *no distinction between God and the world*. They say that God is in all things, and all things are a part of God. Some of you remember the song back in the '70s by the Stylistics, "You are Everything, and Everything is You." It was influenced by this Eastern teaching that deifies nature and claims that God can be experienced directly through nature.

Ah, but John points out that God is distinct from the world so that when creation dies, God does not die. When nature is contaminated, God remains holy. The writer to the Hebrews said in chapter 1:10-12

- And,
"YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH,
AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
¹¹ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;
AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,
¹² AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP;
LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.
BUT YOU ARE THE SAME,
AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

The universe is not *eternal*, as some of the secular scientists proclaim. "*All things came into being through Him*," that is, there was *a point in the past when it was not*, and then the universe came into being and continues by the very Word of Christ.

Jesus is the *originator* of creation. Jesus is the *sustainer* of creation. But John tells us something else here...and that is,

3. **Jesus is the *agent* of creation**—"All things came into being *through Him*..."

Explained: When John declares that "*All things came into being through Him*," he does not lower the Word to the rank of a simple instrument. Rather, John merely implies that Christ's relation to creation was not detached from it, but intimately involved with it. The word "**through**" (*dia*) is a preposition from which we get our English word *diameter*. When someone asks you what the width of something is, they are asking you to explain *the measurement of something from one side to the other*. When John uses it here, "*All things came into being through Him*..." he is seeking to explain to us that the Word was the *instrument*, the *agent* through which the world was made *from one side across the other*. In other words, Jesus is not only the cause of creation, but He is also the agent through which it was made.

- **1 Corinthians 8:6**—yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

¹ Traditional Spiritual, *He's God the Whole World in His Hands*

- **Colossians 1:16**—For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
- **Romans 11:36**—For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Oh, how clear and emphatic the Bible is about the deity of Christ!

Applied: William Barclay tells of a little girl from the inner city who was taken on a trip into the country. She was in awe of the trees and the beautiful bluebell flowers. She asked one of the teachers, "Do you think God would mind if I picked some of His flowers?" I know we sing, "*This Is My Father's World*," and that is absolutely true, but it is also true that this is My Savior's World—God is a Savior, and His name is Jesus!

Now there is much more biblical evidence, but let me flip the pancake to the other side so what we might enjoy it. On the positive side, in an economy of words, John says, Jesus Christ is the originator, agent, and sustainer of creation. Then he concludes his positive declaration by with a negative one for emphasis by saying...

4. **Jesus is the *exclusive* creator**—"*...apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*"

John is a master evangelist, and this is one of the stylistic ways he communicates. For example, when the Jews sent the priest and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

- **John 1:20**—And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."
- **1 John 1:5**—This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Explained: The adverb "**apart**" (*choris*) is used 41 times in the New Testament, and it means *without*, independent from, or separate from. Another way of saying this would be, "Without Him, nothing was made in the made category." If He made everything that has been made, then He is not in the "made category" because you cannot create yourself.

One last insight from this precious and power-packed verse. John changes the tense *aorist* to the *perfect*. Notice, he says, "*all things came into being through Him.*" That's the *aorist*, which conveys the idea that *creation is in its totality*. In other words, it happened once and for all. It came into being in one act (over six days), or ten words of utterance ("And God said, 'Let there be...!'",) and "*apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*" In other words, creation is a completed act. The creation is finished. It is not a process that is still going on. When researchers find some new creature, it has been there all along, and they just didn't know it. But God did. Creation is not in a process; it is a finished product.

Applied: Now, this has some very personal applications. One, if Jesus is the Creator, then He is God, which means, I am not God...and neither are you! This is one of the most fundamental lessons of life. Two, if He can create everything, then surely He can give help in my distress. Nothing is too difficult for Him! So, the next time you are in trouble, humble yourself and look up to the exclusive Savior

who made the heavens and the earth. Finally, if Jesus is God, He is not in control of MOST things, but ALL things—which includes your trials too!

B. The Deity of Christ Explicitly Stated

Now I have sought to open up the verse and the doctrine for you, but there is no better preacher than the text of Scripture. So, let me just set before you a small sampling of the verses that explicitly state that Jesus is Creator.

1. Colossians 1:15-17

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Watch out for the Jehovah's Witnesses, who will say, "firstborn here means first created." Prototokos was either the eldest child in the family or a person of preeminent rank, and in this context, Paul says the latter. He is the originator—*by Him*. He is the agent—*through Him*. He is the goal—*for Him*.

2. Ephesians 3:9

- and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

3. Acts 17:24-27

- The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

To a religious group of people who had no clue about who God is, Paul tells them five things about God that we all need to know: 1) *God is the creator of life*, 2) *God is the ruler of life*, 3) *God is the giver of life*, 4) *God is the controller of life*, and 5) *God is the revealer of life*.

4. Exodus 20:11

- For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

5. Psalm 146:5-6

- How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶ Who made heaven and earth,
The sea and all that is in them;
Who keeps faith forever;

6. Revelation 4:11

- Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.

It was said of Charles Steinmetz, the mechanical genius and friend of Henry Ford, that he could build a motor in his mind, and if it broke down, he could fix it in his mind. So, when he designed it and actually built it, it ran with precision. One day the assembly line in the Ford plant broke down. None of Ford's men could fix it, so they called in Steinmetz. He tinkered for a few minutes, threw the switch, and it started running again. A few days later, Ford received a bill from Steinmetz for \$10,000. Ford wrote back, "Charlie, don't you think your bill is a little high for just a little tinkering?"

Steinmetz sent back a revised bill: "Tinkering—\$10. Knowing where to tinker—\$9,990." Only [the Creator, the Lord] Jesus knows *where* the tinkering should be done in our lives to keep us in perfect running order. Christ always knows which *screw to turn*, which *belt to loosen*, and the most beneficial octane [for each of His creatures].

The doctrine of the deity of Christ as creator biblically defined, explicitly stated, now let's come to the "so what" of the message, and consider what this means for us practically applied.

C. The Deity of Christ Practically Applied

1. As Creator, Jesus has creator rights.

Creator rights mean *sovereignty authority to orchestrate whatever He deems best in your life* (whether people, negative or positive events, or experiences) to accomplish His will and move you from where you are to where you need to be.

- He divinely appointed a prison for Joseph.
- He mysteriously led Melchizedek to Abram.
- He sovereignly orchestrated Jethro and Zipporah to be the first family for Moses.
- He graciously knitted together the friendship of Jonathan and David.
- He unquestionably brought Barnabas (the son of Encouragement) to a newly called apostle Paul.

And everything in your life has a purpose too, dear friend. It is "custom-designed" and "tailor-made" by the Master's hand.

Spurgeon said it this way:

"You have seen a painter with his palette on his finger, and he has ugly dabs of paint on the palette. What can he do with those spots? Go and see the picture. What splendid painting! In an even wiser way does Jesus act toward us. He takes us, poor smudges of paint, and He makes the blessed pictures of His grace out of us. It is neither the brush nor the paint He uses, but it is the skill of His own hand which does it all!"

2. As Creator, Jesus has recreative power.

Although His work of creation is finished, His work among creatures is not. When God made you, He didn't make any mistakes, but sin cracked the mirror in which His glory was to shine in you. Sin

polluted the stream through which His life might flow. Sin corrupted the desires and faculties that He designed for your good and His glory.

The cracks are through every part of our lives. The pollution has infected every part of our souls. The corruption is not merely skin deep; it is bone deep.

Are we then lost and ruined forever? Shh! Listen! I think I hear a voice saying,

- *"Come unto Me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt.11:28). "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall now perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:16-17).*

I hear some saying, "But certainly, there are some who are worse than others, and who need help more than me?"

- *"But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish," Jesus says (Luke 13:5).*

"But how can I repent if I have no desire to? How can I turn when I feel paralyzed by my sin?"

- *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63).*

I am hearing that if I but act on the words of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, I can be forgiven of my sins and brought into a personal relationship with my Maker, the Savior.

- *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise Him up on the last day (John 6:37-40).*

But what about my faults? My weaknesses? My past? My ignorance? My stubborn heart?

- *"If any man be in Christ, He is a new creature, old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor.5:17).*

He who has the sovereign right over you also has the power to change you and make you new.

3. As Creator, Jesus deserves worship and praise.

Is there anyone higher and more worthy of praise than He? We don't even know who wrote this hymn, but you can own it if you believe what John and the entire Bible seeks to teach us.

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.*

*All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.²*

Conclusion:

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.

² Anonymous, *Fairest Lord Jesus*