

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

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A SUMMARY FOR OPEN BIBLE STUDY

The most misinterpreted and misunderstood scripture in the Bible relates to the Deity and Humanity of Jesus Christ. From these misgivings heresy and the occult establish their erroneous conclusions and resultant false theology. The unseen leadership of all occult religions are the Satanic forces of evil. Therefore, the Deity of Jesus Christ is the most important doctrine in the Bible.

Jesus Christ is God! He always has been, always will be. Jesus Christ by Divine Decree (see study on Divine Decree – forth-coming) became one of us (humanity) to pay the penalty of sin which is death. Adams sin is inherent in every human being since Adam. This summary study will prove these statements beyond the doubt of shadows. Jesus Christ is the light of the world (life), there are no shadows in Him. There never was a time when Christ did not exist as God (John 1:1-5; 9-14).

For clarification, two words of terminology should be understood: Christophany, means appearances of Christ after His death and resurrection. Theophany refers to appearances of Christ before His incarnation (before He became Man).

Christ is the Son of God as declared by God the Father: (Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; 20:13).

Jesus Christ declared Himself as the Son of God the Father. In these numerous declarations, Christ speaks from His humanity, not His deity, even though He is deity. These declarations make Him equal with God, His Father: Matthew 7:21; 10:32, 33; 11:27; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10; 18:19; 10:23; 24:36; 25:34; 26:39; 26:42; 26:53; Luke 2:49; 10:22; 22:29; 24:49; John 5:17; 6:32; 6:65; 8:19; 8:28; 8:38; 8:49; 8:54; 10:18; 10:29, 30, 32, 37; 12:26; 14:7, 12, 20, 21, 23, 28; 15:1, 8, 15, 23, 24; 16:10; 18:11; 20:17; Revelation 2:27; 3:5, 21).

The Theophanies of Christ declare His pre-existence before the creation, especially before the incarnation; thus, His eternal life. Christ as the Angel of Jehovah, identified as Jehovah: Genesis 16:7-13, 22; 11:18; 31:11-13; 48:15, 16. Also compare Exodus 3 with Acts 7: 30-35; Exodus 13:21; 14:19; Judges 6:11-23; 13: 9-20. Angel of Jehovah distinguished from Jehovah: (Genesis 24:7, 40; Exodus 23:20; 32:34; 1 Chronicles 21: 15-18; Isaiah 63:9; Zechariah 1:12, 13). Angel of Jehovah is the second person of the Trinity – visible God or God incarnate. However, after Christ became incarnate, the Angel of Jehovah no longer appears because the Angel of Jehovah was Christ before the incarnation. Having come in the flesh, His manifestation as the Angel of Jehovah was no longer necessary: (John 1:18; 6:46; 1 Timothy 6: 15, 16; 1 John 4:12).

Jesus Christ is referred to as Jehovah: Isaiah 9:6, 7; 40:3; Jeremiah 23:5, 6; Zechariah 12:10.

HYPOSTATIC UNION

As Messiah, Christ stands alone. Christ is Undiminished Deity and True Humanity in One Person. This is called Hypostatic Union. As True Humanity, Christ did not empty Himself of Deity. Therefore, Christ is the Unique Person in Heaven and Earth. Jesus Christ is uniquely God and uniquely man in one person forever.

The Humanity and Deity of Christ in the incarnation are declared in Philippians 2:5-7.

The Theological Doctrine of Kenosis means to “deprive oneself of proper function.” In other words Christ became a man without losing or diminishing His Deity. The implication is restraint, not loss. Deity cannot lose Deity. This is an absolute impossibility. The characteristics of Deity cannot change (see definition of “immutability” under “Terms and Definitions”).

During the incarnation of Christ, He relied totally on the Indwelling Holy Spirit and God’s Word to sustain Him from birth to the Cross; through death and His resurrection. By age twelve Jesus already knew the wisdom of Scripture and was a super-grace believer (Luke 2:40-52). We are referring to the humanity of Christ. Whenever you read Scripture that refers to human characteristics of Christ you must remember this is referring to His humanity never His deity.

Christ did not use His Divine Attributes (characteristics) during His incarnation. He had to remain true humanity in order to go to the Cross. Proof of His perfect humanity is the fact that he went to the Cross and God the Father was propitiated (God’s perfect Justice...satisfied) with Christ’s perfect life and substitutionary death for our sins. His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God is proof of our salvation by faith. When we trust the Cross-work of Christ, God accepts us into His precious family permanently and forever (see the study Doctrine of Eternal Security for more details). Jesus Christ made that permanence possible. God accepted Christ’s sacrifice and perfect life and as a result, salvation is available to whosoever will believe and accept it. Furthermore, because Jesus Christ is forever man and God in one person, we have Divine proof that man as a believer will live forever. Jesus Christ as the unique God-man is God, the second person of the Trinity, just as He has always been and always will be. Jesus Christ is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 1:1-3, 14). The union of Christ’s two natures (Divine and human) is hypostatic forever. Believers will receive a new resurrection body like Christ’s body and we will never be subject to death again (Philippians 3:21).

God the Son, Christ, (the second person of the Trinity) had to become man to pay the debt of man. God became man to save man from God’s wrath. Remember, Deity cannot die so Deity could not go to the Cross. Perfect humanity had to go to the cross and since all men inherit Adam’s sin-nature, no human being since Adam could go to the Cross. Only God could save fallen man and He did – meet Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Christ, born of God had no sin-nature because of the virgin birth. God is the father of Christ. Christ had no human father. He is the only man besides Adam who had no human father. Eve is the only woman who had no human father. These three stand alone in history. Two of these three acted independently of God.

The result was the fall of man which resulted in the nature to sin (Genesis chapter 3).

Adam was created without a sin-nature. Christ was born without a sin-nature. God cannot be tempted (James 1:3) so the temptations of Christ came through His humanity which is another reason for the necessity of the virgin birth. The Adamic nature (the nature to sin) is passed down through the father to every generation. Christ did not have a human father, therefore he had no human nature. As a result He is our only hope of salvation because he had no human nature and he never sinned against God during His entire life.

Adam failed the first volitional (free-will) test when he disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the “Knowledge of Good and Evil.” The ‘second Adam’ (Christ) did not disobey God. He resisted the temptation of not going to the Cross. As a result humanity, through faith in the Cross-work of Christ, can be (has been) restored to a relationship to God through Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:35, 36; Luke 22:42). Jesus Christ was able not to sin and not able to sin. All honors in heaven and earth belong to Jesus Christ now and forever. To reject the Deity of Christ, or the Cross of Christ, results in condemnation to the lake of Fire. The unbeliever is not reconciled to God – he remains in sin lost and hopeless in his own ego arrogance.

After His ascension into Heaven, Christ became our mediator (Job 9:2, 32, 33; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6). Because He is both true humanity and deity, He is equal with both God and man and therefore qualified to mediate and reconcile our differences. Christ became our High Priest (Hebrew 7:4, 5, 14-28; 10:5, 10-14). A high priest must always be a man because he represents man before God.

Most believers do not understand the ‘Celebrityship’ of their Savior. They cannot appreciate His uniqueness and His Love for them until they understand the necessity for His perfect life and sacrifice as the God-Man-Savior. The Hypostatic Union (Christ as the God-man) is the most phenomenal and selfless thought-gift ever given by God to man, because Christ gave Himself to save us and became Hypostatic, forever, for us.

The Deity of Jesus Christ is unquestionable and undeniable. To reject God’s perfect Son is the quintessence of arrogance. The Lake of Fire is much more understandable and believable when the Deity and Hypostatic Union of the God-Man are truly understood by the believer. When we realize what God went through to provide our great salvation, we are truly humbled and at the same time we can understand the justice of God against those who are defiant. Jesus Christ is both the Inspired and the Incarnate Word. He is the Creator! Christ is the great I Am of the Old and New Testament (Genesis 15:1; John 1:1-5; 9-14). If you have access to a concordance, look up every verse that you can find regarding Jesus Christ. Do you need motivation to live the Christian life? Study God’s Incarnate Word through the Inspired Word as often as you can.

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
Jesus Christ truly is the King of Kings Preeminent

Jesus Christ is the “Preeminent One” in the universe and He earned the right to this title.

Colossians 1:18 concludes with a purpose clause: “that in all things He might have the preeminence.” God the Father declared that His Son would be the preeminent one in this verse in Colossians. Have you made the same declaration? Is Christ truly first in your life? When Bible doctrine has first place in your life (thinking) then Jesus Christ holds first place. This is your measuring rod. How important is Bible Doctrine in your thinking. When you are occupied with Christ you are occupied with God’s Word and the Lord is constantly on your mind. You are either occupied with self or Christ. You are either in fellowship or out of fellowship. You love God’s Word or you don’t. Your eyes are on people or on Christ. Your thinking is dominated by God’s Word in your soul or by worldliness. If you are not constantly comparing the world and people to Scripture in the privacy of your soul then you are not occupied with Christ and you do not have enough Doctrine (1 Corinthians 2:15). Bible Doctrine gives us Divine Viewpoint in our thinking (soul) and the automatic result is we are constantly reminded of our Savior and His thinking (1 Corinthians 2:16). God’s Word causes the believer to see through the superficiality of the world and people. Learn Doctrine! Our strength comes from God’s Word. Our power comes by the Holy Spirit. Believers must learn to equip themselves with the armor of God – Bible Truths. You cannot overcome the world apart from the Word in you and the power of the Holy Spirit leading you, fighting ahead of you and protecting you. Without Doctrine you are constantly subject to satanic attack. In the wild, beasts of prey seem to know who the sick or weak animals are and Satan is the same. He knows if you are a baby in Christ or a “filled with the Word believer controlled by the Holy Spirit.” “Resist the Devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7) How do we resist? - Doctrine in your soul! This is why it is so important that the believer confesses sin on a sin-by-sin basis and daily learns Bible Doctrine. This is why it is so important that your Church is constantly teaching God’s Word. Doctrine and the filling of the Spirit are the simple mechanics to victory in our spiritual warfare. Do you want to overcome addiction to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or self – get with the Word and stay in fellowship (1 John 1:9). In other words makes Jesus Christ preeminent in your life.

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST

Hebrews 1:4

“Being made (having become) so much better (in His humanity not His Deity – deity cannot be improved upon) than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Jesus Christ as the Preeminent One is Superior in every way. In verse 3 of Hebrews Chapter 1, the transcendent glory of Christ is clearly defined: “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things [how?] by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.” The superiority of Christ is dramatically expounded in this beautiful verse and then is continued in verse 4. The angelic creation is the highest form of God’s created beings. Man is vastly inferior

to angels, but because of Christ (His sacrifice, burial resurrection and session at the right hand of the Father) the believer at the point of salvation instantly becomes far superior (positionally) through our newly acquired union with Christ. At the Rapture the believer will become [experientially] higher when we receive our resurrection bodies. We as believers are joint heir with Christ and we share in His majesty for all eternity.

SUPERIOR IN RELATIONSHIP

Hebrews 1:5-13 reveals several ways in which Christ is superior to angels in his humanity: “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my “Son”, this day [the day of incarnation] have I begotten thee (Hebrews 1:5a). This is a quotation of Psalms 2:7(look it up).

“Son” in the New Testament is used only for Christ as a member of the human race and for believers in union with Christ in the “Body of Christ.” Collectively, angels are known as “sons of God” in the plural (Genesis 6:2; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7), but they are never referred to individually or personally as “a son.”

“And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son” (Hebrews 1:5b). The second half of this verse is a quote from 2 Samuel 7:14. Because of our relationship with Christ we can now have a relationship with the Father. “...wherein he hath made us accepted IN THE BELOVED” (Ephesians 1:6). “Therefore if any man be IN CHRIST, he is a new creature (species) 2 Corinthians 5:17). Christianity is a relation to God – not a religion!

SUPERIOR IN HIS SECOND ADVENT

“And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him” (Hebrews 1:6). “When he bringeth in” apparently refers to the Second Advent because the Greek word indicates someone “brought back” into something and in this case: the world.” When Christ is brought back at the Second Advent believers in Heaven will be brought back with Christ to reign with Christ (Hebrews 1:13). “All the angels” refers to both elect angels and fallen angels. When Christ returns at the Second Advent He will defeat Satan and the other fallen angels (this is called “operation footstool Hebrews 10:13”) and remove them from the earth.

SUPERIOR IN HIS MINISTRY

We now look at Hebrews 1:7&8: “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his [elect] angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire [administers of judgment - quoted from Psalms 104:4]. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God (note this is God saying to Christ) – Thy throne O GOD is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom” [quoted from Psalms 45:6] God the Father addressed Christ as Deity - Jesus Christ is God.

Verse 8 introduces a contrast between angels and Christ. Christ as Sovereign and angels as servants. As a man, Christ’s throne is the throne of David, where he shall reign over the house of Israel forever. Christ seated at the right hand of the Father is ruler over the Church. Christ will reign forever and because the believer is in union with Christ the believer too will reign with Christ forever. Jesus Christ is our celebrity. He is messiah. He is the King of Kings.

CHRIST IS SUPERIOR IN HIS CHARACTER – Hebrews 1:12 – He is unchanging in person and character being forever the same. In Hebrews 13:8 Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. “For I am the Lord I change not” (Malachi 3:6).

SUPERIOR IN HIS POSITION AS KING

“But to which of the angels said he at anytime, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool Hebrews 1:13)? We know man is inferior to angels, but here God refers to Christ in his humanity as superior to angels – a man (Christ) superior to angels is truly a paradox. Our Savior Jesus Christ is so unique. “On my right hand” is the greatest and highest place of honor. Christ earned His place of highest honor when He died for you - a sinner lost without hope. This is by far the most dramatic point of history – Christ upon that Cross to save us from eternal damnation. God gave Christ to save us from His judgment.

As believers in the Cross-work of Jesus Christ, we are “heirs of salvation” superior to angels. As such, angels now minister to believers. Each of us has one or more guardian angels to keep us safe while performing God’s plan in this life, which is the purpose of our life after salvation (Hebrews 1:14). Angels serve the believer and the believer serves Christ.

The Superiority of Christ is revealed throughout the book of Hebrews. Read it carefully and often so that you never lose touch with the reality of the Deity of Jesus Christ.

CHRIST IS THE REDEEMER OF MANKIND

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14). See also: 1 Peter 1:18, 19).

CHRIST IS THE VISABLE IMAGE OF GOD

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature (Colossians 1:15). Here, in one sentence, Paul clearly states the remarkable uniqueness of Christ as true humanity and true God in one person. The first phrase asserts His deity while the second expresses His humanity. In the original Greek Christ is the EXACT image of the invisible God. This is where Jehovah’s Witnesses mistranslate this important Scripture and therefore denounce the deity of Christ as eternal God. For example: the absence of the definite article calls attention to and emphasizes the character of the person (Christ). Thus, this verse declares emphatically and unequivocally that JESUS CHRIST IS ETERNAL GOD! He is, therefore co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit as God. He is exactly the same in essence. ONLY GOD CAN BE THE IMAGE OF GOD, therefore Jesus Christ is eternal God who came to save humanity. To do so God had to become man born of a virgin without a fallen nature thereby fulfilling the requirement of God. God, the second person of the Trinity entered the world to save the world. God delivered all things to the Son (Matthew 11:27).

Also, please note that the word “firstborn” in Colossians 1:15 is an expression for rank. It does not imply that Christ was created. This word is not related to creation or birth, but is a title for

rank. It was a designation for the sovereign or head of a family. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the Sovereign leader of the new regenerate creation.

CHRIST IS THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE

“For by him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven (space), and that are in earth (physical universe), visible and invisible (material and spiritual), whether they be thrones, or dominions [humanity], or principalities, or powers [angels]: all things were created by him and for him” (Colossians 1:16). Christ is omnipotent. He is the omniscient one sustaining the universe (entire creation). See verse 17 in Colossians, chapter one. Christ holds everything together by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). While Christ was on the Cross suffering for you and me He was also sustaining the universe. That is absolutely fantastic. The more you learn about Christ the more you will appreciate our God-Man-Savior, which brings us back to where we started this phase of our study of the Preeminence of Christ. Our blessed Savior is the unique person in the universe. He is the Preeminent King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus Christ is God and His Deity is proclaimed throughout the Bible. To Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Happy Studying!