

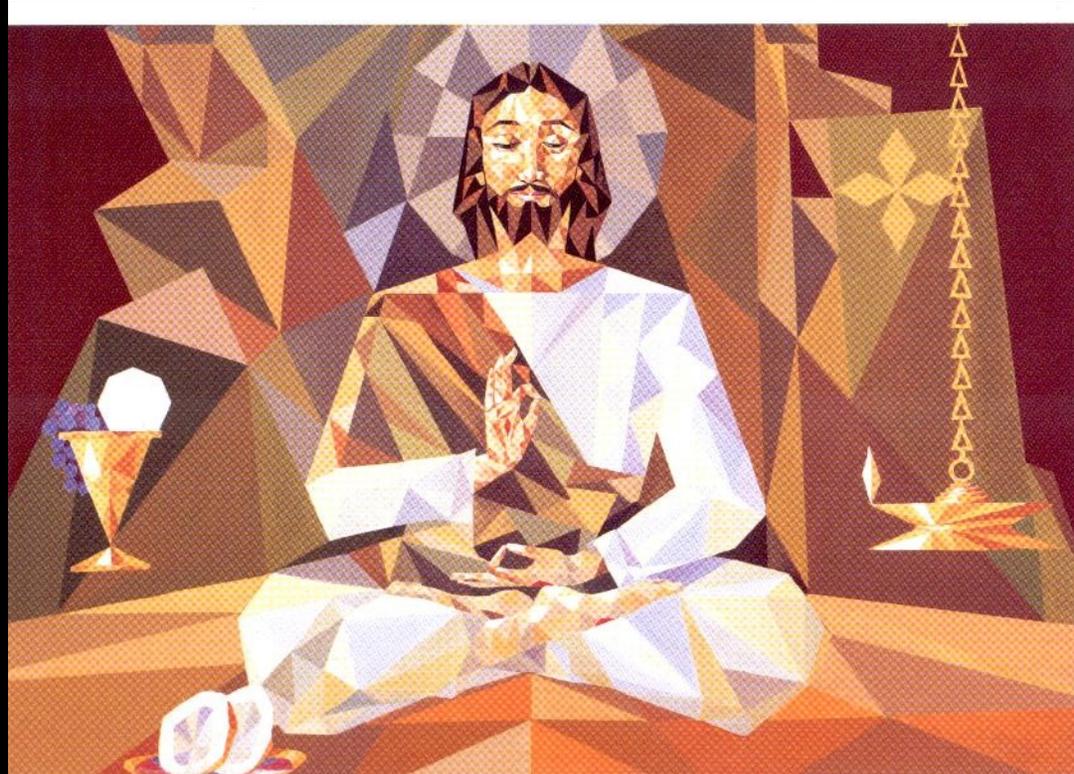
THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-20

05.09.12

Why does the deity of Christ matter?

- Claim: “I believe in Jesus!”
- Question: Which “Jesus” do you believe in?



Luke 9:18-20a

“Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”¹⁹ And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.”²⁰ Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?””

Ebionism

- “Jesus was An ordinary man possessed of unusual but not superhuman or supernatural gifts of righteousness and wisdom. They rejected the virgin birth, maintaining that Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary in normal fashion.”
- Baptism of Jesus = start but at the end of his life “the Christ withdrew from him.”
- Conclusion: Jesus was a man who had the power of God for a certain time.

Arianism (Modern day JW's)

- “The Word (Jesus) is therefore a created being, although the first and highest of the beings. While the Word is a perfect creature, not really in the same class with the other creatures, he is not self-existent.” Erickson, 213.
- **Response 1: Ignores texts that clearly teach the deity of Christ.**
- **Response 2: Misunderstanding of texts that speak of Jesus’ temporary subordination to the will of the Father as statements about the “essence” of the Son.**

1) Jesus claimed to have power over angels

- Matthew 13:41 “The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- **Angels of God?* - Luke 12:89 “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹ but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
- Luke 15:10 “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

2) Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins

- Paralytic through the roof - Mark 2:5 “My son, your sins are forgiven.”
- Reaction of the scribes “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God?” (Mk. 2:7).

Jesus speaks of judging the world - Matt.
25:31-26

3) Jesus claimed a unique status with the Father

- John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”
- John 14:7 “If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”
- John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”

4) Jesus' trial was due to His God-claim

- John 19:7 “The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”
- Matthew 26:63-65 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

5) Book of John

- John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

6) Book of Hebrews

- Thesis: Jesus is superior to the angels, Moses, and the high priests (4:14-5:10).

7) The Resurrection

Jesus is God

- NT writers faced a difficult problem in affirming that Jesus is God WITHOUT saying that Jesus is the Father.
- ὁ θεός - The word for “God” in the New Testament, literally “The God”
- Κύριος - Greek word for “God” in the Greek Old Testament (The Septuagint)



Humanity & Deity of Christ

- KEY = Hebrews 4:15 *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*
- 1) Jesus’ humanity provides a connection to our humanity.
- 2) Jesus’ deity provides deliverance from our humanity.
- 3) Jesus’ victory gives me confidence that I can change.
- 4) Jesus’ victory makes it possible to have a relationship with God.

