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Was Jesus Really God?



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

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Was Jesus Really God?

Colossians 2:9 (NIV), “*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,*”

John 20:28 (NIV), “*Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’*”

John 5:18 (NIV), “*For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*”

John 10:30-33 (NIV), “³⁰ *‘I and the Father are one.’* ³¹ *Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’* ³³ *‘We are not stoning you for any of these,’ replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you a mere man, claim to be God.’*”

For the Christian, the answer to this question (Was Jesus Really God?) is critical to their salvation. Paul said in Romans 10:9 (NIV) “*That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*” By the statement “Jesus is Lord”, Paul is in essence saying you must confess that Jesus is God. To be a Christian then, you must believe that Jesus is God as Paul clearly teaches.

The word “Lord” here is used in the pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament (The Septuagint) to translate the name of the Hebrew God (Yahweh). Therefore, there can be no mistake as to why Paul chose to use the word “Lord” when referring to Jesus whom he knew to be God incarnate (God in the flesh). In addition, Paul makes it emphatically clear that all Christians must have the spirit of God living within them. He says in Romans 8:9 (NIV) “*...And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*” It is with this in mind Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:3 (NIV) “*... and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.*” So, one of the indicators that we are indeed Christians and have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us is our belief that Jesus is God.

However, there are many professing Christians who do not believe Jesus is in fact God. I’m not suggesting that every Christian knows this immediately after their conversion, I am saying that they will come to acknowledge the deity (that he is God) of Christ at some point in their walk with the Lord.

Of all the Christian doctrines under attack by those outside of the church, the deity of Jesus Christ is the most attacked, and here's a few reasons why:

- 1) The atheist/evolutionist runs into a block wall if in fact Jesus is God (which he is). In Matthew 19:4 (NIV) Jesus said, “ *Haven't you read, he replied, 'That at the beginning the Creator made them male and female,...'* ” by quoting Genesis Jesus is validating the fact that it is correct, God created man, we did not evolve as evolutionists/atheists believe.
- 2) All other religions fall apart. In John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus said, “ *...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* ” If Jesus is God (which he is) then his statement is true, you can not access the true and living God unless it is through Jesus. There is no two ways about it, no religion can claim they have access to the true and living God based on Jesus' statement since he is God. (See also Acts 4:12 and 1 Timothy 2:5)
- 3) The satanic nature of those that deny the deity of Christ becomes evident. Since some groups who profess to be Christians, have denied the deity of Christ from their beginning, they must continue to attack the deity of Christ or otherwise be exposed as satanic in their attacks against Jesus Christ. The two groups that come to mind that deny the deity of Christ are: (1) The Jehovah's Witnesses and (2) The Christadelphian. Both of these groups are very firm in their demotion of Jesus Christ. Are these groups correct in their assessment of Jesus? Absolutely not, as we will soon see.

In my mind, there is no Christian doctrine taught more clearly in the Bible than the deity of Jesus Christ. No honest, unbiased student of the Bible could deny the deity of Christ using the Bible. It is impossible to study the Bible and not acknowledge the deity of Jesus. Here are just a few of my reasons for such a bold statement, you be the judge:

- 1) In Isaiah 44:24 (NIV), the Lord says, “ *...I am the Lord who has made all things, **who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself..*** ” It could not be clearer than it is here, God said that he “alone” stretched out the heavens. He said he was by himself when he spread out the earth. (See also Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 45:18) However, both Paul and John say it was Jesus who created everything.

John says in John 1:3 (NIV) “***Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.***”

Paul says in Colossians 1:16 (referring to Jesus) (NIV) “***For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.***”

Paul and John both agree, “all things” that is, everything ever created was created by Jesus. (This destroys completely the Jehovah’s Witness position that Jesus was himself created. The usage of “all things” by Paul and the specific words used by John, “without him nothing was made that has been made” clearly teach that Jesus was not part of creation, instead, he is the creator. If he was created, which he wasn’t, then Paul and John are teaching that Jesus created himself since he created “all things”.)

To the honest student of the Bible there is only two logical conclusions we can come to after comparing words found in Isaiah 44:24 with Paul and John’s words found in Colossians 1:16 and John 1:3 and they are as follows:

- (1) Paul and John are wrong in calling Jesus the creator when it is clear from God’s own words in Isaiah 44:24 that he is the creator. This error by John and Paul, (which is not error) would mean the Bible is wrong (which it’s not and cannot be trusted).
 - (2) Jesus is God and Paul and John are correct in acknowledging Jesus as the creator (this of course is true).
- 2) In Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) we find a prophetic statement about the birth of Jesus. Isaiah says, *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*

Matthew applies the prophetic statement to Jesus and tells us the meaning of the name “Immanuel”. Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV) says, *“²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ – which means, ‘God with us.’”*

This is crystal clear, Matthew said Jesus (Immanuel) **is God with us**, no mistake.

- 3) There are those that deny the deity of Christ by playing the “semantics” game. They give the Greek words found in the New Testament their own peculiar meanings to prove Jesus was not God. Rather than to cover every one of passages or Greek words distorted to prove that Jesus was not God, or inject my own preconceived opinion, I make my determination based on those who were there with Jesus and knew exactly what he said or didn’t say. Consider what his hearers said in John Chapter Ten, verse 33: *“ ‘We are not stoning you for any of these’, replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you a mere man, claim to be God.’”*

So, folks can play all the games they want with Greek words in attempt to rob Jesus of his deity. However, they can’t cover up what his hearers heard and understood, Jesus claimed to be God, no mistake here and no way to cover this up.

4) Perhaps one of the clearest statements made in reference to the deity of Christ came from Thomas (nick named “Doubting Thomas”). John’s Gospel records words of Thomas after he saw the resurrected Jesus for himself. John 20:28 (NIV) says, “*Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’*” There is no way around this statement made by Thomas, he knew exactly what he was saying, make no mistake!!

5) Many cling to the fact that Jesus is called “the Son of God” throughout the Gospels to deny he was in fact God. However, I once again put away my preconceived opinion and consult those that understood what “the Son of God” really meant. John 5:18 (NIV) says, “...*but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*” (See also Mark 14:61-64, it is because Jesus said he was “the Son of the blessed one” that he was condemned as worthy of death.)

The Jews present when Jesus said God was his Father, making him the son of God, knew exactly what he meant, he was claiming to be equal with God. How is this? Every father that has a son will notice that his son is made of the same material he is made of. In the minds of these Jews, Jesus was saying that he was of the same nature and essence of his Father, God, no mistake!!

6) Paul said in Colossians 2:9 (NIV) “*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*”

Paul could not be clearer, he said, “*all of the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form in Jesus.*” There is no way around this one, “all” is “all” and “full” is “full”.

7) John makes it clear to his hearers in John 1:1 who the pre-incarnate Jesus (the Word) was. John 1:1 (NIV) says, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” In verse 14, John tells us the Word (Jesus) became flesh. John 1:14 (NIV) says, “*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, ...*” Nowhere are we told Jesus stopped being God after becoming flesh.

8) Paul said in Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV) “*⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*”

There are at least three very important facts Paul makes in these verses, consider the following:

- (1) Paul clearly says Jesus was God in very nature. There is no way around this clear fact.

- (2) Paul explains Jesus' voluntary act of humiliation, making himself nothing. (This explains passages like John 14:28 where Jesus says "*The Father is greater than I.*" Jesus was simply acknowledging the fact that since he voluntarily humbled himself by becoming a man, positionally, the Father was greater than he was. Nothing in the entire New Testament suggests that Jesus was not God in essence and nature even in his voluntary state of humiliation he was God clothed in flesh throughout his entire earthly life.
- (3) Jesus' voluntary act of humiliation meant him taking on another nature in becoming a man but still fully God.

The answer to the question "Was Jesus Really God" is yes. There are many other passages that clearly teach that Jesus is in fact God but space does not allow me to include them all. Instead, I chose the simplest, irrefutable passages one can read to prove beyond doubt that Jesus is God.

In my close, I would like to add the final and most obvious proof that Jesus was God, the empty tomb. Jesus said in John 10:18 (NIV), "*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to take it up again....*" No one has power over life and death except God. All founders of religions are still dead and in their graves, Jesus lives because he is God.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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