



The Deity of Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare the following: His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary work on the cross, bodily resurrection from the dead, and exaltation to the right hand of God.¹

The following gives a deeper understanding of this:

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. John 1:18 expresses His deity in a very explicit way: “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” His being “at the Father’s side” expresses, not a distinction in essence or an inferiority in any way, but a close relationship to the Father and a sharing in the Father’s authority.

¹ “The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#3> (Accessed August 29, 2017).

The opening verse of this great chapter in John identifies the “Word” as being in the beginning with the Father, a clear statement of the coexistence of the Son with the Father from eternity. It also declares “the Word was God,” that is, Deity.

The deity of Christ includes His coexistence in time and eternity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As the prologue of John indicates, the “Word” was eternally preexistent. The use of the term “Word” (Greek. *Logos*) is significant, since Jesus Christ is the chief agency of the Godhead for expressing the divine will. He is not only the one Mediator between God and mankind (1 Tim. 2:5), He was also the Mediator in creation. God spoke the universe into existence through the Son as the Living Word, and “without him [apart from Him], nothing was made [in creation] that has been made” (John 1:3).

As Colossians 1:15 says, Christ is “the image of the invisible God.” Hebrews 1:1–2 also proclaims the great truth that Christ is the fullest and finest revelation of God to humankind. From the

beginning, the “Word,” the very expression of God himself, has been actively disclosing God. And then, “when the time had fully come” (Gal. 4:4), “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).²

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

The scriptural proof of the deity of Christ is very extensive in the New Testament. We will look at these claims under several categories.

Direct Scripture Claims

1. When the word (Theos) or God is used for Christ.

“God” is used in the strong sense as the one who is creator of heaven and earth, the ruler over all.

John 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² Menzies, W. W. (1993). [Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective](#). (S. M. Horton, Ed.) (p. 62). Springfield, MO: Logion Press.

Romans 9:5 (ESV) To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Titus 2:13 (ESV) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

There are seven clear passages in the New Testament that explicitly refer to Jesus as God.

2. **When the word (Kyrios) or Lord is used for Christ.**

The word “Lord” was used in many different ways in ancient times. It was used as we use the word “sir” or “master” (by a slave). However, it was also used in the Greek New Testament as the Hebrew word “Yahweh,” “the Lord,” or “Jehovah”. The Word “Kyrios” is used to translate the name of “the Lord” 6,814 times in the Greek Old Testament.

Luke 2:11 (ESV) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Revelation 19:6 (ESV) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the **Almighty** reigns.

3. **Other claims to Deity.**

John 8:57–58 (ESV) ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”
⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

Jesus combined two assertions that seemed to make no sense: Before something in the **past** happened something in the **present** happened.

By using the words “**I am**” Jesus identified himself with the title “I AM” by how God designates himself as the eternal existing One.

Exodus 3:14 (ESV) God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

4. The Term “Son of Man”.

Daniel 7:13–14 (ESV) 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.

Acts 7:56 (ESV) And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Hebrews 1:2 (ESV) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

The Attributes of Jesus that speak of his Deity.

God is Omnipotent – Jesus was All-powerful.

Matthew 8:26 (ESV) And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

God is Omniscient – Jesus was all-knowing.

John 16:30 (ESV) Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”

God is Omnipresent— Jesus was not everywhere at once during his ministry on earth, however he promised he would be after going back to the Father.

Matthew 18:20 (ESV) For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

God is Eternal – Jesus is immortal.

John 2:19 (ESV) Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

God is worthy of worship – Jesus is worthy of worship.

Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV) ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There was an emptying of Himself while on earth.

Philippians 2:6 (ESV) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What comes to mind when you hear “the deity of Christ?”
2. If Jesus was 100% man and 100% God, how is it that He was able to live a sinless life? How do we go about explaining John 14:28?
3. What is the significance of the virgin birth and why was it necessary?

EXERCISE: Differing view-points on the deity of Jesus Christ

Do some research on who the following people believe Jesus is:

- Gnostics
- Muslims
- Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
- Buddhists
- Atheists

What new information you learned from your research stands out to you?