

## The Deity of Christ

### Introduction:

The importance of the doctrine of the deity of Christ can scarcely be over-estimated. As noted previously, the Lord Jesus Christ does not sustain the same relationship to Christianity that other founders of religions sustain to the faiths they originated.

Buddha (563-484 B.C.), Confucius (551-478 B.C.), Mahomet (570-632 A.D.), etc., are significant primarily for their teaching — whereas Jesus Christ is significant primarily for His Person.

Proofs for the deity of Christ fall into two categories: First, the statements of Scripture which expressly declare Him to be God; Second, the statement of Scripture which, by themselves or when compared with other, of necessity imply His deity.

### I. Scriptures Which Expressly Declare the Deity of Christ.

#### A. The Gospel according to John.

Since this Gospel is “the Gospel of deity,” we would expect to find a number of clear references to the deity of Christ:

##### 1. John 1:1-3

So potent is this passage that the Jehovah’s Witness cult was forced to re-write their “Bible” to make Jesus ‘a god’!

##### 2. John 5:18

The Jews clearly recognized the claims of Christ when He referred to Himself as the “Son of God.” (A Son must be the same in essence as his father!)

##### 3. John 5:23

This verse ought to confront every member of the Jehovah’s Witness cult — from their own perverted “Bible”!

##### 4. John 10:30

The word “one” here does not mean “one—as in full agreement,” but “one—in essence.” This is how the Jews understood it, verses 31-33, and Jesus did not correct them.

##### 5. John 12:45

Jesus Christ was (and is) a visible manifestation of God.

##### 6. John 14:9

##### 7. John 20:28

The Lord did not rebuke Thomas for his declaration.

#### B. The Book of Acts

See: Acts 16:31, 24 and compare.

##### 1. verse 31 — “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”

##### 2. verse 34 — “believing in God”

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### C. The Book of Romans

See: Romans 9:5

### D. The Book of I Timothy

I Timothy 3:16 is the classic verse declaring the Jesus Christ is “God manifest in the flesh.”

This is another verse which has been corrupted out of most version, which usually alter the word “God” to “who” or “he”.

### E. The Book of Titus

See: Titus 1:3-4 and compare.

1. verse 3 — declares God to be our Savior
2. verse 4 — declares the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior

See also: Titus 2:13

### F. The Book of Hebrews.

1. Hebrews 1:8
2. Hebrews 3:1-4

### G. The Epistle of I John

See: I John 5:20

The word “this” is clearly referring to Jesus Christ.

### H. The Epistle Salutations

A number of New Testament epistle salutations use words such as, “...from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ...” II Corinthians 1:2.

At first glance such statements may appear to be separating the two Persons in their equality — though in reality they are distinguishing two Personalities.

The Salutation of Colossians 1:2-3 is interesting — these verses distinguish “God,” and “Father,” and “Christ.”

## II. Scriptures Which Imply the Deity of Christ

By comparing certain Scriptures relating to the Lord Jesus Christ with others relating to God or the Father, we can find many strong proofs for the deity of Christ.

### A. Jesus Christ Possesses the Attributes of God.

The attributes of God, notably the natural attributes, are unique to deity.

#### 1. The Natural Attributes Ascribed to Jesus Christ.

##### a) Omniscience.

- (1) Christ knew all things — John 16:30
- (2) He knew Nathaniel under the fig tree — John 1:47-49
- (3) He knew the history of the Samaritan woman — John 4:29
- (4) He knew the thoughts of men — Matthew 9:4; 27:18; Mark 2:6-8; Luke 6:8

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- (5) He knew the time and the manner of His departure from this world — Matthew 16:21; John 12:33; 13:1
- (6) He knew who would betray Him — John 6:64, 70, 71
- (7) He knew the course of this present age — Matthew 24:25
- b) Omnipotence
  - (1) Christ declared He was “the Almighty” — Revelation 1:8
  - (2) He had the power to do the things of God — John 5:19
  - (3) He upholds the created universe with His power — Hebrews 1:3
  - (4) He has “all power” — Matthew 28:18
  - (5) He had power over devils and evil spirits — Mark 5:11-15, disease — Luke 4:38-41, death — Matthew 9:25; Luke 7:14-15; John 11:43-44, the elements — Matthew 8:26-27, nature — Matthew 21:19; John 2:11

The Bible cites all of these things as proof of the deity of Christ.  
See: John 5:36

- c) Omnipresence
  - (1) Christ was in Heaven while he was bodily present on the earth — John 3:13
  - (2) Christ is on the earth while He is presently in Heaven — Matthew 18:20; 29:20
  - (3) Christ fills all — Ephesians 1:23
- d) Eternality  
See: Hebrews 7:16

- (1) Christ was before John the Baptist — John 1:15
- (2) Christ was before Abraham — John 8:58
- (3) Christ was before the world was created — John 1:1; 17:5, 24
- (4) Jesus Christ is the “firstborn” of every creature — Colossians 1:15, being in existence “in the beginning” — John 1:1; I John 1:1
- (5) As the future, He continues forever — Hebrews 1:11; Revelation 1:11

### Note Regarding the Term “Firstborn”

Those who deny the deity of Christ say that the term “firstborn” applied to Christ means He was “born” — i.e. He had a definite, finite beginning.

However, the term “firstborn” is a title expressing relationship with no thought of generation necessarily connected with it.

- i. Isaac was Abraham’s “firstborn” because he was called the “only son” (Genesis 22:2, 12, 16) and the “only begotten son (Hebrews 11:17). Yet we know Ishmael was also Abraham’s son, and he was born first!
- ii. The firstborn of both man and beast was considered as belonging to God. Exodus 13:12; Numbers 3:13. The Levites were later substituted for Israel’s firstborn — Numbers 3:12.
- iii. The firstborn son received the “birthright” which included the headship of the family and a double portion of his father’s estate. In the most cases, the son born first was the firstborn, but not in every case. See: Genesis 19:19, 32; 47:14, 17-19

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e) Immutability

Christ is said to be unchanging — Hebrew 1:11-12; 13:8

Note: Charismatics and others often cite Hebrews 13:8 as proof for a continuation of the signs and wonders, healing, etc. done by the Lord for this present day.

This verse teaches that the Lord is the same in His Person and attributes — not necessarily in His workings, as Scripture teaches.

f) Unity

John 10:30; I John 5:7

g) Life

John 1:4; 5:26; 11:25; 14:6

### 2. The Moral Attributes Ascribed to Jesus Christ

a) Holiness

Christ is absolutely holy and without sin — I John 3:5; completely pure — I John 3:3; and Light itself — John 8:12.

The sinlessness of Christ is declared many times in the Word of God — even by those who were His enemies:

(1) The Unclean Spirits — Mark 1:23-24

(2) Judas — Matthew 27:3-4

(3) Pontius Pilate — John 18:38

(4) Pilate's Wife — Matthew 27:19

(5) The Dying Thief — Luke 23:41

(6) The Roman Centurion — Luke 23:47

Many other Scriptures testify Jesus Christ to be holy, just, and without sin. See John 8:46; Acts 3:14; 22:14; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26.

Jesus hated sin — Hebrews 1:9; did not sin — I Peter 2:22; demanded holiness in others — Matthew 5:48; and rebuked those who did sin — Matthew 16:23; John 4:17-18; 8:11.

His death on the cross reveals the true attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ toward sin.

b) Love

Jesus Christ is the greatest expression of Love that could ever be demonstrated.

Christ exhibits love by loving:

(1) The Father — John 14:31

(2) Lost sinners — Romans 5:8

(3) Believers — Galatians 2:20

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- (4) Obedient disciples — John 14:21
- (5) His churches — Ephesians 5:25
- (6) His enemies — Luke 23:34
- (7) His own kindred — John 19:25-27
- (8) Children — mark 10:13-16

The Lord Jesus Christ manifests His great love in every possible way — to the Father, by His perfect obedience to His Father's will and in seeking His glory; to mankind, by seeking them, saving them, and sorrowing after those who would reject Him.

- c) Truth  
John 14:6

### B. Jesus Christ Possesses The Offices of God

1. He is the Creator of the Universe — John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10
2. He is the Sustainer of the Universe — Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3

### C. Jesus Christ Exercised the Prerogatives of Deity

1. He forgave Sin — Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:5, 10-11
2. He gave Eternal Life — John 10:28; 17:2
3. He raised the dead — John 11:43-44
4. He will execute Judgment — John 5:22, 27; II Timothy 4:1

### D. Jesus Christ is Identified with the Old Testament Jehovah

Certain things said of the LORD in the Old Testament are also said of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Statement	Old Testament	New Testament
Tempted by Israel	Numbers 21:6	I Corinthians 10:9
The Shepherd	Psalms 68:18	John 10:11; I Peter 2:25; 5:4
Creator	Psalms 102:24-27	Hebrews 1:10-12
Seen by Isaiah	Isaiah 6:1	John 12:37-41
To be sanctified	Isaiah 8:13	I Peter 3:15
A Stone of Stumbling	Isaiah 8:13-14	I Peter 2:7-8
Preceded by a forerunner	Isaiah 40:3-4	Luke 1:68, 69, 76
Alpha&Omega; First&Last	Isaiah 41:4; 44:6	Revelation 1:11, 17
Light and Glory of Israel	Isaiah 60:16	Luke 2:32
Searches the hearts	Jeremiah 17:10	Revelation 2:23
Seeks and saves	Ezekiel 34:11-12	Luke 19:10

### E. Jesus Christ Has Names and Titles which Declare His Deity

#### 1. God

As noted above, Jesus is directly called "God" about 7 times in the New Testament.

#### 2. The Son of God

This title is used by Jesus of Himself, (John 10:36), but also by others — and Jesus accepted it in such a way as to assert His claims to it.

The title declares deity, John 5:18; 10:30; Matthew 16:16-17

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See also: Matthew 27:43; Mark 9:7; 14:61; John 1:34; 5:25; 11:4; Acts 9:20; Hebrews 10:29; I John 4:15

### 3. The "I Am" Titles

"I Am" denotes self-existence and was the Name by which the LORD revealed Himself to Israel through Moses.

### 4. Lord

This title is used of deity.

Matthew 7:21-22; 22:42-46; Luke 2:11; 6:5; John 20:28; Acts 2:36; 4:33; 9:17; 10:36; 16:31; Romans 14:9; I Corinthians 2:8.

### 5. The Holy One

See: Acts 3:14 and compare it with Hosea 11:9

## F. Jesus Christ Accepted the Worship of Men

See: Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 20:20; 28:9; Luke 5:8; 24:52-53; I Corinthians 1:2

Both the Old and New Testaments clearly declare that only God is to be worshiped — Exodus 34:14; Matthew 4:10 — yet Christ accepted worship.

Men and angels refused worship when it was offered to them — Acts 10:25-26; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:6-14

## G. Jesus Christ Received Divine Honor

1. At His Baptism — Matthew 3:16-17
2. In the "Great Commission." — Matthew 28:19
3. In the Apostolic Benediction — II Corinthians 13:14

## H. Jesus Christ Possessed a Divine Self-Consciousness

1. In the Temple at Age Twelve — Luke 2:41-52
2. At His Baptism — Matthew 3:13-17
3. At His Temptation — Matthew 4:1-11
4. In His "Sermon On the Mount."
  - a) He claimed more authority than Moses — e.g. Matthew 5:38, 39
  - b) He claimed to be Judge of all men — Matthew 7:21-23