

Lesson 10 – The Deity and Humanity of Christ

For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus* (1 Tim 2:5)¹

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28)

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village where He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He traveled and preached. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He did not go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born.

He did none of the things man usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a stake between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth.

When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone and today He remains the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the fleets that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of men on this planet so much as that One Solitary Life. ---*Dr. James Allen Francis, originally published 1928*

1. The Person of Christ – Overview

- a. Who He is
 - i. Fully God
 - ii. Fully Man – but without sin
- b. Definitions
 - i. Deity – God
 1. The term *Deity of Christ* unequivocally states that Jesus is God.
 - ii. Divinity – God, or God-like
 1. The term *Divinity of Christ* can be used to communicate
 - a. That Jesus is God – OR –
 - b. That Jesus is *like* God (but maybe He isn't really God)
 - iii. Humanity of Christ
 1. Jesus came as a physical Man
 - iv. Hypostatic Union (a theological word, not a Biblical word)
 1. The dual nature of Christ being both 100% God and 100% man dwelling together as one person.

¹All Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Lesson 10 – The Deity and Humanity of Christ

2. He is not half God and half Man.
- v. Incarnation
 1. The coming of the Second Person of the Godhead into a human body, referring to the birth of Christ on earth.

Christ's Deity	Christ's Humanity
He is called God – John 1:1	He is called Man – 1 Tim. 2:5
He is called the Son of God – Mark 1:1	He is called the Son of Man – Mark 2:10
He was Prayed to – Acts 7:59	He prayed to the God the Father – John 17
He was Worshiped – Matt. 2:2, 11	He Worshiped God the Father – John 17

- c. Why it is important to be accurate
 - i. Is it possible to believe in Christ if we do not believe WHO HE IS?
 - ii. If we do not believe He is God, we will die in our sins – John 8:24
 1. Notice where it says “I am *he*,” the word *he* is in italics.
 2. The word *he* is not in the Greek. It says, “Unless you believe that I AM, you shall die in your sins.”
 3. The gist of His teaching here is that Jesus is equating Himself with Jehovah, who revealed Himself as “I AM” to Moses – Exodus 3:14
 - iii. If we do not believe He came in the flesh, we are false teachers – 1 John 4:1-3
 1. If Jesus didn’t have a physical body, He couldn’t die on the cross and shed His blood for our sins.
 2. If He couldn’t die on the cross for our sins, we would not have a Savior
 3. If we didn’t have a Savior, we would all be lost and on our way to Hell.
2. **The Humanity of Christ – 1 Tim. 2:5**
 - a. There is not a lot of controversy over His humanity
 - i. It is very obvious that He came as a Man
 - ii. However, some people have difficulty in accepting the obvious, as we shall see later in this lesson.
 - b. He was made flesh – John 1:14
 - c. He had human ancestry – Matt. 1:1-16
 - d. He was born of a woman – Luke 2:7; Gal. 4:4
 - e. He was a partaker of flesh and blood, as we are – Heb. 2:14
 - f. As a Child, He grew – Luke 2:40
 - g. He looked like other men – Judas had to point Him out to His abductors so they would be sure to get the right Man. (No, He didn’t have a halo). – Matt. 26:48
 - h. He had physical needs as other men did
 - i. He got hungry – Luke 4:2
 - ii. He got thirsty – John 19:28
 - iii. He ate – Luke 24:14-15
 - iv. He slept – Luke 8:23
 - i. He faced temptation
 - i. His temptation by Satan – Matt. 4:1-10
 - ii. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin – Heb. 4:15
3. **The Deity of Christ – John 1:1**
 - a. The Deity of Christ is more controversial than His humanity.

Lesson 10 – The Deity and Humanity of Christ

- b. The Deity of Christ is more controversial than His humanity.
 - i. It's easy for most people to believe in His humanity.
 - ii. Some people have trouble accepting Him as God.
- c. He is called God in Scripture
 - i. Old Testament
 - 1. He is called "Mighty God" – Isa. 9:6
 - 2. In one of the prophecies of His Incarnation He is called *Immanuel*, or *Emmanuel*, which literally means "God with us.) When He is with us, God is with us. – Isa. 7:14; see Matt. 1:23
 - 3. He was "from everlasting" – Micah 5:2
 - ii. New Testament
 - 1. He is called God – John 1:1
 - 2. He claimed to be God
 - a. "I and my Father are One" – John 10:30
 - b. He claimed to be the I AM of Exodus 3:14 – John 8:58
 - i. The Jews knew He claimed to be God, for they sought to stone Him to death
 - ii. Stoning was the correct Old Testament judgment for a person who claimed to be God. – Lev. 24:12-16
 - 3. He forgave sins – Mark 2:5-7
 - a. The Jews were correct in their response, "Only God can forgive sin.
 - b. If Jesus was not God, He was guilty of blasphemy.
 - 4. Jesus claimed and demonstrated to possess attributes that only God can claim
 - a. Omnipresence – Matt. 18:20
 - b. Omniscience – Mark 11:2-6
 - c. Omnipotence – Matt. 28:18
 - 5. He had creative power
 - a. He turned water into wine – John 2:
 - b. He created food for the 4,000 and 5,000 on the spot
 - 6. He had power over Creation
 - a. The calming of the sea – Mark 4:39
 - b. Walking on water – Matt. 14:25-26
 - 7. He accepted worship – John 20:28
 - a. Only God is to be worshiped – Exodus 20:3
 - b. That makes Him God or an imposter.
 - 8. He didn't rebuke Thomas for calling Him "God" – John 20:28
 - 9. Jehovah God's testimony
 - a. Jehovah God commanded the angels to worship Him – Heb. 1:6
 - b. Jehovah God called Him "God." – Heb. 1:8
 - c. Jehovah God called Him "Lord" – Heb. 1:10; see Psalm 45:6-7

4. False ideas about Christ

- a. He was God, but He did not have a real physical body, because matter is evil. (Ancient Gnostics, a cult that began to flourish during the lifetime of Paul).
- b. He was a good Man, but not God. (Some liberal Protestants)

Lesson 10 – The Deity and Humanity of Christ

- c. He was a man who had the Spirit of God in Him. (Some liberal Protestants)
 - d. He was half man and half God.
 - e. He was a man who manifested the “God principle” (Some liberal Protestants)
 - f. Mary conceived Jesus as an idea only. He was not physical, since God is mind and spirit. Nothing exists except mind and spirit, so the idea of a physical Jesus is delusion. (Don’t ask me to explain it). (Christian Science)
 - g. Jesus was a man who attained perfect “at-one-ment” (atonement) with God. All people can do it. Jesus did it. (Unity School of Christianity)
 - h. He was God. Not part of the Trinity, but God. (United Pentecostal Church, most churches with the name *Apostolic* in them).
 - i. Jesus was the Archangel Michael, and He is God (Seventh-Day Adventists)
 - j. Jesus was the Archangel Michael, and He is not God (Jehovah’s Witnesses)
- 5. Objections to the Deity of Christ**
- a. “My Father is greater than I” – John 14:28
 - i. Greater has to do with Office, or Position, not His nature, or the essence of His being.
 - ii. This had to do with the time He humbled Himself and came to earth as a man – Phil. 2:5-8
 - 1. For the time He was on earth He gave up some of the privileges of Deity.
 - 2. He did it so He could dwell among people and then die on the cross for our sins.
 - b. “The head of Christ is God” – 1 Cor. 11:3
(See the answer to “a” above)
 - c. Christ shall be subject to the Father – 1 Cor. 15:28
(See the answer to “a” above)
 - d. He didn’t know the time of His Second Coming – Mark 13:32
(See the answer to “a” above)
 - e. Jesus asked, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God” – Luke 18:19
 - i. Look at the verse again. He never said He was not God.
 - ii. He was testing the man to get him to testify as to what he meant when he called Jesus “good.”
 - iii. Jesus called Himself “good” on other occasions – “I am the Good Shepherd” – John 10:11, 14
 - f. Jesus is referred to as being created
 - i. “The beginning of the creation of God” – Rev. 3:14
 - 1. The Greek word for “beginning” is *arche*, which has the idea of “origin,” or “source.”
 - 2. He is the SOURCE of God’s creation – see Col. 1:16
 - ii. “Firstborn of every creature.” – Col. 1:15
 - 1. It did not say He was the “first created.”
 - 2. *Firstborn* in Scripture carried the meaning of “pre-eminent.”
 - a. The firstborn son in every household was the most important child
 - b. He is pre-eminent because:
 - i. He created everything that was created – Col. 1:16
 - ii. All things were created for Him – Col. 1:16
 - iii. He existed before all created things – Col. 1:17

Lesson 10 – The Deity and Humanity of Christ

- iv. All created things are held together by Him – Col. 1:17
- c. He was begotten – Psalm 2:7; John 3:16
 - i. His human body was begotten
 - ii. His Person was not begotten
- g. If He is the Son of God, He can't be God.
 - i. Before the Incarnation, the term, "Son of God" was used only prophetically, referring to His incarnation. – Psalm 2:7
 - ii. In the New Testament it is referring to Him as a Man – Mary was his mother; God was His Father, a reference to the Virgin Birth.
- h. If Jesus is God, whom did He pray to, Himself?
 - i. When you accept the Biblical teaching of the Trinity, the answer to this question is obvious.
- i. If Jesus is God, how could He die?
 - i. Jesus was God and Man.
 - ii. As Man, He could experience death.
- j. If Jesus is God, who was running the universe during the three days He was dead? (See the answer to "h" above).