

### The Person of Jesus Christ - Deity

**Context:** Individual & Group

**Focus:** Christ/Competencies

Everything in both testaments ultimately revolves around the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the theme of the entire Bible. He is the very center of the Christian life. Therefore, we must understand what the Bible teaches about His Person and His work. Indeed a correct understanding of the doctrine of Christ is necessary for our very salvation:

*Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (2 John 9)*

The doctrine of Christ can be broken down into closely related discussions about His Person and His work. This week we will begin a 4-part series examining His Person focusing specifically on 1) His deity, 2) His humanity, 3) His unity as God-man, and 4) His eternal sonship. You must believe each of these four things about the Person of Jesus Christ.

The deity of Christ means simply that Jesus is God. Jesus Christ is fully God. He is as much God as the Father or the Holy Spirit. All of God is in the Son. We've briefly discussed this truth in our study of God's triune nature, but this week we will examine it in more detail. The fact that Jesus is God is clearly taught in Scripture through the following:

1. Direct statements that Jesus is God
2. Direct statements that Jesus is Lord
3. Direct statements claiming deity for Christ
4. References to Jesus' possession of divine attributes.

## Connexions Theological LEs

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### Exercises:

Day 1 – We will take a look at direct statements in scripture that clearly tell us Jesus is God or claim deity for Him.

1. Read the following passages: Isaiah 9:6; Matt. 1:23 (w/ Is. 7:14); John 1:1, 14; John 1:18; 20:28; Acts 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:15; 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20.
  - a. Read these again and as you do, dig a little deeper. Make sound observations about each passage: Who was speaking? To whom were they speaking? Was this a prophecy of future events, a recording of events already taken place, or something else? Who was spoken of? **NOTE: you may need to expand your reading to include some of the surrounding scriptures for context.**
  - b. How much interpretation is required to understand from each passage that Jesus is God? What effect does the clarity of these scriptures have on the authority of the doctrinal statement, Jesus is God?
2. Read the following scripture and identify exactly how each is claiming deity for Jesus Christ: Micah 5:2; Zechariah 12: 1, 10; John 5:18; John 10:30, 33; 12:41 (w/ Is. 6:1); John 14:9

Day 2 – the Bible teaches the deity of Christ through its direct statements that Jesus is Lord.

1. Using a Strong's Concordance or an interlinear Bible, find 10 OT scriptures where the Hebrew name for God, Yahweh (or yhwh), has been translated as "LORD".
2. Again using Strong's or an interlinear Bible, find 10 NT scriptures where the Greek word, kurios, has been translated "Lord" and applied to Jesus Christ.
3. During the second and third centuries B.C., a Greek translation of the OT called the Septuagint was completed. In the Septuagint, the Greek word kurios is used as a translation of the Hebrew name of God, Yahweh.
  - a. When the disciples and apostles were writing their letters to the early church, what did their Bible look like?
  - b. The Greek word kurios can be also be translated as "sir" (e.g. Matt. 13:27; 21:30) or "master" (e.g. Matt. 6:24). Yet, when the writers of the NT applied the word to Jesus Christ 6,814 times in the Greek NT what was their intended meaning? How do we know this?

Day 3 – Remember how we learned that because each Person of the Trinity is fully God, the unique attributes of God are shared equally by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Let's use this truth of God's triune nature to prove that Jesus is God from scripture.

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1. For each of the following divine attributes find at least one scripture showing that Jesus possesses this divine attribute and one scripture declaring that it is an attribute belonging to God:
  - a. Eternal
  - b. Omnipotent
  - c. Omnipresent
  - d. Omniscient
  - e. Sovereign
2. Okay, over the last 3 days we have shown how the Bible clearly teaches the deity of Christ. Now, what does that mean for you as a follower of Christ? Because Jesus is God how is your life different today? How should it be different tomorrow?

Day 4 – For today’s lesson, it would be helpful to read or review the section from Chapter 6 of *What Does the Bible Say?* by Malcolm Webber dealing with “Error 1: Stubborn Imbalance”.

Here are the key concepts:

- There are certain doctrinal matters that are more important than others.
- The level of a doctrine’s authority is indicated by its emphasis and clarity in Scripture.
- It is helpful to distinguish up to five levels of authority of doctrine:

Level 1 – Direct statements of Scripture

Level 2 – Direct implications of Scripture

Level 3 – Probable implications of Scripture

Level 4 – Inductive conclusions from Scripture

Level 5 – Speculation from Scripture

The deity of Christ is a prime example of a Level One doctrine. In this lesson, we are going to approach these concepts from a slightly different angle. That is, instead of determining the level of authority of a doctrine by looking at overall Scripture, we are going to determine the level of authority a particular Scripture grants to a doctrine. In other words, when supporting the truth of a doctrine from Scripture, it is best to use the clearest passages possible because they are more authoritative than the ones that require more interpretation.

1. Read this scripture, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8), and answer the following questions.
  - a. What is the direct statement (level 1) of this Scripture?
  - b. Make at least one other direct observation.
  - c. What level of support does this Scripture give to the deity of Christ? What else do we have to know to reach that conclusion?

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- d. What level of support does this Scripture give to the doctrine that God is unchanging? What else do we have to know to reach that conclusion?
  - e. What level of authority would you ascribe to the doctrine of the deity of Christ, just on the basis of Hebrews 13:8? How much interpretation is involved?
  - f. How do we know that the deity of Christ is actually a level 1 doctrine?
2. Which of the Scripture you studied the first three days this week would give Level 1 authority to the doctrine of the deity of Christ? Which would give Level 2?
  3. What is the highest level of authority attainable in formulating a view from Scripture on:
    - a. Method of water baptism? Why? What's the proper response?
    - b. The identity of the Nephilim of Genesis 6? Why? What's the proper response?

Day 5 – Let's test our understanding of the deity of Christ and the scriptural basis for it by looking at some alternative views of His Person (a.k.a. heresy).

1. Below is a list of erroneous views of Jesus Christ. On a separate piece of paper, answer each false claim made by the various groups listed. Use the Scriptures you have been studying in this project to show the truth of the deity of Jesus. Turn this paper in to your Cx mentor next week.
2. Now, in the teams assigned for team devotions every morning, discuss your answers to these errors. Each team member should pick one of the groups and share their response based on the clear Biblical teaching about the deity of Christ.

Group Name	Jesus
<a href="#"><u>Christian Science</u></a>	A man in tune with the Divine Consciousness, not the Christ.
<a href="#"><u>Islam</u></a>	Created being. A prophet. Not God.
<a href="#"><u>Jehovah's Witnesses</u></a>	Created being. Michael the archangel who became a man

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<a href="#"><u>Mormons</u></a>	Created being. The brother of the devil and of all people
<a href="#"><u>Theosophy</u></a> (Gnostic & Hindu mixture)	Created being. A great teacher
<a href="#"><u>Way International</u></a>	Created being. A man, not God in flesh

3. End with a time of worship, exalting the majesty of Jesus Christ, reflecting on His greatness and expressing gratitude for his purposes in your life.