

The Deity of Jesus Christ

For centuries, human beings have discussed, reasoned and rationalized who the Person of Jesus Christ is.

It's worth noting that virtually all cults begin with the misconception or perversion of the Nature and Person of Jesus Christ.

Many theories have arisen as to who He is and here are some of those misconceptions:

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is the Archangel Michael, the first being that Jehovah created in the universe.

- *The Watchtower* magazine says "there is Scriptural evidence for concluding that Michael was the name of Jesus Christ *before* he left heaven and *after* his return."¹
- *The Watchtower* also says "'Michael the great prince' is none other than Jesus Christ Himself."²

Mormonism teaches that Jesus Christ was the first "begotten" spirit child of the Father (Elohim) and one of his many unnamed wives often referred to as the "Heavenly Mother".

- "Jesus, as a spirit-son, then progresses in the spirit world until He became a God."³
- Christ, "by obedience and devotion to the truth...attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God."⁴

Islam teaches that Jesus Christ was one of many thousands of prophets of Allah. They teach that He was sinless and a messenger from God bringing truths for His particular time.

Indeed, Islam teaches that Jesus was not God in human flesh and that he was not the Son of God.

- Sura 43:59 says that "Jesus was no more than a mortal whom [Allah] favored and made an example to the Israelites."
- Sura 5:72-75 says that "They do blaspheme who say: 'God is Christ the son of Mary'...Christ the son of Mary was no more than an apostle."

Buddhism teaches that Jesus was an enlightened man, but not God.

- According to a Buddhist dictionary, enlightenment occurs when a person reaches a place when all negative aspects of the mind have been completely eliminated and one has reached a perfection of all positive qualities.⁵
- Buddhism does not teach the concept of a personal creator or God...He said there was no need to believe in God.⁶

Hinduism believes that Jesus could be the latest avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu or Krishna.

- Many Hindus believe that Jesus was a good teacher and perhaps one of their 330 million avatars (or incarnations of Brahman-the impersonal, supreme being that fills the universe).⁷

Christian Science believes that the Christ is the "divine-idea man." It is a principle that dwells within each and every one of us. Christian Science denies that Jesus was the Christ.⁸

The following quotes and teachings are from Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the primary Christian Science work said to be a companion of the Bible.

- Jesus was not the Christ, S&H 333:3-15; 334:3
- "Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus himself declared, but the Son of God." S&H 361:12-13
- Jesus did not reflect the fullness of God, S&H 336:20-21

- Jesus did not die, S&H 45:32-46:3

Scientology believes that Jesus was just a great teacher.

- "You will find the cross as a symbol all over the universe, and the CHRIST LEGEND as an implant in preclears a million years ago."⁹
- Neither Lord Buddha nor Jesus Christ were OTs [Operating Thetans, the highest Scientology level] according to evidence. They were just a shade above clear.¹⁰

According to the Scientology web site, a "Clear is a being who no longer has his own reactive mind, and therefore suffers none of the ill effects the reactive mind can cause."¹¹

And to John Dominic Crossan, co-founder and co-director of the **Jesus Seminar**, the real Jesus,

"[that] existed in history was not the virgin-born Messiah, the Son of the living God. He did not in fact do any of the miracles attributed to him in the Gospels. He was executed for revolutionary activities and, instead of being resurrected; his body was devoured by wild dogs."¹²

These are just a handful of beliefs that man has about who Jesus is. Thus, it's clear that in order to confront these and other false teachings on the deity of Jesus Christ, we need to be diligent in our study of what the Word of God has to say about it.

Tonight, we're going to look at the following:

1. 25 Biblical claims of Jesus' deity.
2. Jesus is the Perfect Revelation of the Father.
3. Verses others use to deny Jesus' deity.

Let's start first by looking at and expounding upon 25 Biblical passages that point to the deity of Jesus Christ.

25 Biblical Claims of Jesus' Deity

1. The apostle Thomas called Jesus God

John 20:27-29 - After seeing Jesus raised from the dead, Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

- Thomas was a Hebrew and a believer. For him to call Jesus "my God" was equivalent to calling Him Jehovah.

2. The apostle Peter called Jesus God

2 Peter 1:1 - "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of *our God and Savior Jesus Christ.*"

- The Greek literally reads, "having faith in righteousness of the God of us and Savior Jesus Christ."
- With the use of such verbiage (i.e., "the God...and Savior") we can apply what is called the *Granville Sharp* rule.

Simply stated, the *Granville Sharp* rule says, "that when two nouns of the same case are separated by the word "and" [Greek: kai], with the first noun having the article [the] in front of it, but the second noun without the article, only one person is in view and is, thus, being described by both nouns."¹³

3. The apostle Paul called Jesus God

Titus 2:13 - "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

- The Greek literally reads, "expecting the blessed hope and appearance of the glory of the great God and Savior of us Jesus Christ."
- Again, when applying the *Granville Sharp* rule, we can clearly see that Jesus Christ is being called God.

2 Thess. 1:12 - "So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

- We would again apply the *Granville Sharp* rule here.

Romans 9:5 - "whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen."

- This is a significant passage due to the *doxological* factor that Jesus is not only called God but He is *worshiped* as God.
- A *doxology* is a spontaneous break out in worship and praise that ascribes glory, honor, praise and sovereignty to God. All doxologies close with "Amen."
- Other doxologies – Rom 1:25; 11:36; 16:27; Gal. 1:4-5; Eph. 3:21

4. The apostle John called Jesus God

John 1:1-3, 14 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

- This verse is so damaging to the Jehovah's Witnesses that they literally have to *change* their *New World Translation* to fit their theology instead of letting the Bible *determine* their theology.

5. The prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would be called God

Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, *Mighty God*, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

6. God the Father calls Jesus God

Hebrews 1:8 - "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.'"

This verse is a direct quote from Psalm 45:6 - This is God the Father calling His Son, Jesus Christ, God.

7. Just like the Father, Jesus created all things

John 1:3 - "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Colossians 1:16 - "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

Compare to:

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Psalm 102:24, 25 - "I said, 'O my God...of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.'"

8. Just like the Father, Jesus is called "Lord of lords"

1 Timothy 6:15 - "Which He [Jesus] will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords."

Revelation 19:16 - "And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Compare to:

Deuteronomy 10:17 - "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God"

Psalm 136:3 - "Oh give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever."

9. Just like the Father, Jesus is Unchanging and Eternal

Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Compare to:

Malachi 3:6 - "For I am the LORD, I do not change."

10. Just like the Father, Jesus gives eternal life

John 10:27-28 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish"

Compare to:

Titus 1:1, 2 - "according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgement of the truth which accords with godliness in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began"

11. Just like the Father, Jesus is Omniscient (all knowing)

John 21:17 - "And he [Peter] said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed My sheep.'"

John 16:30 - "Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You."

Compare to:

1 John 3:20 - "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things."

12. Just like the Father, Jesus is Omnipresent (everywhere)

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Compare to:

Jeremiah 23:24 – “Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD.”

13. Just like the Father, Jesus is Omnipotent (all powerful)

Colossians 2:10 – “and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

1 Peter 3:22 – “who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with the angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him.”

Compare to:

Jeremiah 32:17 – “Ah, LORD God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.”

14. Jesus claimed to be *Yahweh*

John 17:5 – Jesus prayed, “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, *with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*” (emphasis mine)

- This is significant passage since Yahweh said in Isaiah 42:8, “I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another”
- We see that Jesus had the glory **with** the Father **before** the world was.

15. Jesus’ blood is called God’s blood

Acts 20:28 – “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

- In John MacArthur’s Commentary on Acts, he says “Paul can say that God as much as purchased the church with His own blood because he ‘believed so strongly in the deity of Jesus Christ and His essential unity with the Father that [he] hesitated not to

... speak of His sacrifice on Calvary as a shedding of the blood of God."¹⁴

16. Jesus spoke as God

In the Old Testament, prophets would hear from God and write "God said" or "Thus says the LORD..." – Over 2,000 times...

Compare to:

Jesus didn't speak like the Old Testament prophets "Thus says the LORD" but said "I say to you":

- Matthew 5:21-22 – "You have heard it said...But I say to you"
- See also Matthew 2:26, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44
- Matthew 7:28-29 – "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, *for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*" (emphasis added)
- John 14:15 – "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

17. Only God can be the Savior of the World

John 4:42 – "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Acts 4:12 – "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Compare to:

Isaiah 43:11 – "I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior."

Isaiah 45:21, 22 – "And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me and be saved."

18. Jesus Forgave Sins

Mark 2:5-12 - "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.' And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

- The Jews knew that only God had the prerogative to forgive sins but to show that He wasn't just arbitrarily speaking, Jesus backed up His claim by healing the man.
- So, not only did Jesus forgive sins but He backed it up with miracles to show that He had "all authority." – Matt. 7:29; 28:18; John 5:26-27; 17:2.

19. Jesus Accepted Worship

Matthew 14:33 - "Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'"

Matthew 28:17 - "When they saw Him [Jesus], they worshiped Him; but some doubted."

Hebrews 1:6 - "But when He again brings the firstborn into the Word, He says: 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.'"

- See also – John 20:28; Matthew 2:11; 8:2; 9:18; 15:25; 28:9
- Jesus would not have accepted worship unless He was God. (See Rev. 19:9-10; 22:8-9)

20. Jesus Claimed to be the Divine Son of God

John 19:7 - "The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.'"

- The Jews rightly understood that claiming to be the Son of God was in fact claiming equality with God.
- See also – John 5:17, 18; 10:30-33

21. Jesus called Himself the "Alpha and Omega"

Revelation 22:12, 13 - "And behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the End, the First and the Last"

And if you're interested in who is speaking in verses 12 and 13, just look at verse 16, "I, Jesus..."

Compare to:

Revelation 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

22. Jesus referred to Himself as the "I AM"

John 8:58-59 - "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM'. Then they *took up stones* to throw at Him." (emphasis added)

- This passage is significant because Jesus was using the same name that God used of Himself in the Old Testament in Exodus 3:14.
- Exodus 3:14 - "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM,' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.'"

John 10:31-33 - "Then the Jews *took up stones again* to stone Him...The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, *make Yourself God.*'" (emphasis added)

23. Jesus Claimed to be Equal with the Father

John 5:18 - "Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, *making Himself equal with God.*" (emphasis added)

- The Jews understood exactly what Jesus was asserting and that He was claiming deity. Jesus was not claiming His identity with

24. Jesus is called 'God with Us'

Matthew 1:23 – “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

- This is a Messianic prophecy contained in Isaiah 7:14 and as Charles Spurgeon correctly points out, “according to this verse, and the twenty-first, EMMANUEL and JESUS mean the same thing [God with us].”¹⁵

25. Jesus has the same nature as the Father

Hebrews 1:3a – “And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature” NASB

- The words *exact representation* or *express image* in the NKJV [Greek: *charakter*] literally means “engraving, stamped or an exact copy.”
- The word *nature* [Greek: *hupostasis*] literally means “essence, person or substance.”
- We could then render this verse to say “And He is the radiance of His glory and the [very image and exact copy of His essence and substance.]”

We could literally go on and on with Biblical evidence of the deity of Christ. One has to be hard pressed to not believe that Jesus was literally God in the flesh.

Jesus is the Perfect Revelation of the Father

Since God, the Father, is Spirit (John 4:24), He sent Jesus, to take on human flesh to be His fullest revelation to man.

- John 1:18 says, "No one has seen God [the Father] at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, *He has declared Him.*" (emphasis added)
- Hebrews 1:2-3 says, "[God] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God as also seen in the following verses.

- John 12:44 says, "Then Jesus cried out and said, 'He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.'"
- In John 14:9, Jesus tells Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father"

Here are just a few of the ways that God the Father reveals Himself to us in Jesus Christ:

1. The Father's unlimited power is revealed in Jesus Christ

- John 3:2 says, [Nicodemus]...came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

2. The Father's infinite wisdom is revealed in Jesus Christ

- 1 Corinthians 1:24 says, "but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

3. The Father's endless love is revealed and demonstrated by Jesus Christ

- 1 John 3:16 says, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us."

4. The Father's unending grace is revealed in Jesus Christ

- 2 Thessalonians 1:12 says, "that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

American radio broadcaster Paul Harvey once told a modern parable about a religious skeptic who worked as a farmer. ¹⁶

"One raw winter night the man heard an irregular thumping sound against the kitchen storm door. He went to a window and watched as tiny, shivering sparrows, attracted to the evident warmth inside, beat in vain against the glass.

Touched, the farmer bundled up and trudged through fresh snow to open the barn door for the struggling birds. He turned on the lights and tossed some hay in a corner. But the sparrows, which had scattered in all directions when he emerged from the house, hid in the darkness, afraid.

The man tried various tactics to get them into the barn. He laid down a trail of Saltine cracker crumbs to direct them. He tried circling behind the birds to drive them toward the barn. Nothing worked. He, a huge, alien creature, had terrified them; the birds couldn't comprehend that he actually desired to help.

The farmer withdrew to his house and watched the doomed sparrows through a window. As he stared, a thought hit him like lightening from a clear blue sky: *If only I could become a bird – one of them – just for a moment. Then I wouldn't frighten them so. I could show them the way to warmth and safety.*

At that same moment, another thought dawned on him. He had grasped the reason Jesus was born."

Jesus came to earth, as God's perfect revelation, to make known to us God the Father. Only God the Son could adequately make known God the Father, anything else would fall short.

John 1:1; 1:14 are the verses that perfectly explain what the incarnation is:

- “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory”.

I like what Timothy George, founding Dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University says:

“And what does the incarnation mean? Simply this: The one, eternal, triune God of holiness and love; the very God who created the world and everything in it; this very God has Himself entered into the world that He made, and He did so in the most personal and intimate of ways – as a Baby in a manger, as a Man on a tree.”¹⁷

The following verses tell us why Jesus took the “form of a bondservant and came in the likeness of men.” – Philippians 2:7

- Mark 1:38 says, “[Jesus] said to them, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”
- John 6:38 says, “So I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me.”
- John 8:42 says, “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.”

The bottom line is this, Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good, but to make dead people live.

Verses Others Use to Deny Jesus’ Deity

1. Was Jesus one of God’s earliest achievements?

Proverbs 8:22-30 – “The LORD possessed me at *the beginning of His way*, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting from the beginning before there was ever an earth. When there were

no depths I was brought forth...When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was *beside* Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." (emphasis added)

Jehovah's Witnesses

- Jehovah's Witnesses say that "most scholars agree that it is actually a figure of speech for Jesus as a spirit creature prior to his human existence."¹⁸
- Jehovah's Witnesses also say that "Many professed Christian writers of the early centuries of the Common Era understood this section to refer symbolically to God's Son in his prehuman state...There can be no denying that the Son was 'produced' by Jehovah 'at the beginning of his way, the earliest of his achievements of long ago,' nor that the Son was 'beside [Jehovah] as a master worker' during earth's creation."¹⁹

Biblical Teaching

- The Jehovah's Witnesses interpretation of Proverbs 8 violates the *context* of Proverbs. The first nine chapters of Proverbs deals with *wisdom personified* thus the wisdom talked about in Proverbs 8 is NOT referring to Jesus.
 - For example, if we take Proverbs 8:22-30 to literally mean Christ, than we have to take literally that Jesus is a women who cries in the streets (1:20-21), who lives with someone named 'Prudence' (8:12) in a house with seven pillars (9:1).
- It's worth noting that no New Testament writer attributes Proverbs 8 to Jesus.
- Simply put, Proverbs 8 is a personification of wisdom used in a poetic style for the purpose of emphasis and impact.

2. Is Jesus a 'mighty god' but not the 'Almighty God?'

Isaiah 9:6 – "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, *Mighty God*, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses

- Jehovah’s Witnesses will admit that Jesus is ‘a god’ but deny that He is ‘the Almighty God.’
- Jehovah’s Witnesses argue that “to call Jehovah God ‘Almighty’ would have little significance unless there existed others who were also called gods but who occupied a lesser or inferior position.” ²⁰

Biblical Teaching

- The reasoning that because Jesus is called a ‘mighty god’ and that it means that He ‘occupied a lesser or inferior position’ doesn’t hold up when you turn one chapter to the right to Isaiah 10:21.
 - In Isaiah 10:21, Jehovah is called the ‘Mighty God.’
 - Does this mean that the Father ‘occupies a lesser or inferior position’ to another God since He’s called Mighty?
- An excellent cross-reference is in Isaiah 40:3 where Jesus is called both God (*Elohim*) and *Jehovah (Yahweh)*.
 - “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD (*Yahweh*); Make straight in the desert a highway for our God (*Elohim*).’”
 - John the Baptist uses Isaiah 40:3 to emphasize the prophecy of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 3:3.

3. Did Jesus say He wasn’t ‘good’ and that only God is ‘good?’

Matthew 19:16-17 – “Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’ So He [Jesus] said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.’”

Jehovah's Witnesses

- Jehovah's Witness will argue that this verse shows that Jesus was denying that He was God. "Jesus was saying that no one is as good as God is, not even Jesus himself. God is good in a way that separates him from Jesus" ²¹

Biblical Teaching

- Jesus was saying, in effect, "Are you calling me good, because only God is good, so are you calling me God?"
- To demonstrate this you can ask the Jehovah's Witness two questions.
 - Question 1: According to Scripture, this verse teaches that only God is 'good', correct? (They of course will say, Yes.)
 - The Bible says that men's hearts are...
 - "desperately wicked" – Jeremiah 17:9
 - "have gone astray" - Isaiah 53:6
 - "are evil" – Luke 11:13
 - "none is righteous" – Romans 3:10
 - "none who does good" – Romans 3:12
 - Question 2: Was Jesus Good?
 - Of course if they say yes - then Jesus was saying He is God.
 - If they say no, Jesus was not good, then we can point them to the following verses:
 - In John 10:11, Jesus says "I am the *good Shepherd*. The *good shepherd* gives His life for the sheep." (emphasis added)
 - The author of Hebrews 7:26 says "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is *holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and has become higher than the heavens.*" (emphasis added)
 - I would have to say that Jesus was pretty good – the Bible teaches He was perfect.

- Jesus was simply placing the rich young ruler into an uncomfortable dilemma. Either Jesus was a good man and God, or He was a bad man; but not just a good man. A good man would not have claimed that He was God when He was not.

4. Since Jesus didn't know the time of His second coming, does that mean He wasn't God?

Mark 13:32 – “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

Jehovah's Witnesses

- On attempting to defend that Jesus was a 'lesser' god and not the 'Almighty God,' Jehovah's Witnesses state, “That would not be the case if Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were coequal, comprising one Godhead”²²
- They will also point out, “Had Jesus been the equal Son part of the Godhead, he would have known what the Father knows. But Jesus did not know, for he was not equal to God.”²³

Biblical Teaching

- The Bible teaches that Jesus had *two natures*, human and divine. We can see His human nature in the following verses:
 - In Luke 4:2, we see that Jesus was hungry.
 - In John 19:28, Jesus was thirsty.
 - In John 11:35, 38, Jesus felt grief.
 - In Mark 14:32-42, Jesus felt agony.
 - In John 4:6, Jesus felt weariness and the need for sleep in Luke 8:23.
 - In Matthew 21:19 we see that in His humanity, He did not know that from a distance the fig tree had no fruit but that in His divine nature of omnipotence, He caused the tree to wither.

We can see His divine or *omniscient* (i.e., all knowing) nature in the following verses:

- In John 2:25 the apostle John writes that Jesus “had no need that anyone should testify of man, *for He knew what was in man.*” (emphasis added)
- In John 16:30, the disciples said to Jesus, “Now we know for sure that *You know all things*” (emphasis added)
 - Please note that Jesus response was “Do you now believe?”
- In John 21:17 Peter responded to Jesus by saying, “Lord, *you know all things*; You know that I love You.” (emphasis added)
 - Again, note that Jesus didn’t rebuke Peter but replied “Feed My sheep.”

It was in the vantage point of Jesus’ human nature that He was speaking from in the Mark 13:32 passage.

Muslims

- Muslim apologists say that if Jesus were divine, He ought to have been omniscient, like God is (Sura 59).²⁴

Biblical Teaching

- Since Jesus had two natures, *human and divine*, the same case that we made for the Jehovah’s Witnesses can be made. I would like to point out that Jesus *voluntarily veiled or occasionally choose not to use some of His divine attributes according to Philippians 2:5-11.*
 - “Christ Jesus, who, *being in the form of God*, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*” (emphasis added)
 - On commenting on this verse, John MacArthur points out “[Jesus] did not stop being omniscient, omnipresent,

omnipotent, or immutable; He chose not to exercise the full limit of those attributes during His earthly life and ministry. He did, however, exercise some of them selectively and partially.

5. Was Jesus 'a god' and not 'the God?'

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Jehovah's Witnesses

- The Jehovah's Witnesses *New World Translation* reads this way, "and the Word was a god."
- "because there is no definite article 'the' (*ho*) it means that Christ is only a god, not the God."²⁵
- "The Greek of John 1:1 'is not saying that the Word (Jesus) was the same as the God with whom he was but, rather, that the Word was godlike, divine, a god.'"²⁶

Biblical Teaching

- Contrary to *Watchtower* claims, the New Testament does use the *definite article* 'the God' when speaking of Jesus Christ in John 20:28 where Thomas says to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."
 - In the Greek, the verse literally reads "The Lord of me and the God (*ho theos*) of me"
- Matthew 1:23 reads, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'"
 - In the Greek, the verse literally reads "with us the God (*ho theos*)."
- Hebrews 1:8 reads, "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever'"
 - In the Greek, the verse literally reads "the throne of thee, the God (*ho theos*), unto the age of the age"

Christian Science

- Mary Baker Eddy, Founder of Christian Science, concluded from John 1:1 that God was an impersonal deity. And said, "This great truth of God's impersonality and individuality...is the foundation of Christian Science."²⁷

Biblical Teaching

- This verse in no-way teaches about an "impersonal" being but just the opposite is true. Just by the very act of using His Word (*Logos*) shows that He used "rational discourse and reason" and that He chose by His will to create in John 1:3 and took on a human nature in John 1:14.
- God is presented through the Bible as a Personal Being who:
 - Has a mind – John 10:15
 - Has a will – John 4:34; 7:17
 - Has feelings – John 4:23
 - Can be called "Abba" which can be translated "daddy or papa" – Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6.

6. Was Jesus begotten as in procreation and thus a created being?

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jehovah's Witnesses

- Jehovah's Witnesses say, regarding that Jesus was the "only-begotten," that "by *virtue* of his being the sole *direct* creation of his Father, the firstborn Son was unique, different from all other of God's sons, all of whom were created or begotten by Jehovah *through* that firstborn Son."²⁸
- In other words, Jesus was "begotten" in the sense that Jesus was directly created by God.

Biblical Teaching

- Hebrews 1:2 says that God created the worlds through His "Son" Jesus.
 - The word *world* [Greek: *aiwnos*] does not mean the material world but "the ages" or in other words, Jesus created space, time, energy and matter as well as the material earth.
 - This of course implies that Jesus was the Son of God *before* the creation of the universe or anything in it for that matter.
- John 1:3 says "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."
- Colossians 1:16-17 says "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."
 - The Jehovah's Witnesses will insert "all [other] things" four times into their *New World Translation* to show that God created Jesus and then Jesus created all [other] things but this is not supported in the Greek text. You can use their *Kingdom Interlinear Translation* or *KIT* to show them "other" is not in the Greek text.

Muslims

- The Quran teaches that "No son has He [Allah] begotten, nor has He a partner in His dominion." (Sura 25:2)
- The Quran also states that "He begetteth not, nor is He begotten" (Sura 112:3)

Biblical Teaching

- You'll want to point out to your Muslim friend that the word "begotten" [Greek: *monoganes*, pronounced mah-noh-ge-NAYS) means "unique" or "one of a kind" and not procreated. It simply

means that Jesus, the "Son of God" was unique as having the same nature as the Father – a divine nature.

Mormonism

- The late apostle Bruce McConkie teaches "Only means *only*; Begotten means *begotten*; and Son means *son*. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers."²⁹

Biblical Teaching

- As noted earlier, Jesus is "begotten" in the sense that He is "unique" or the "one and only Son of God."
- We know that God the Father did not "procreate" with Mary as Mormonism teaches because God is Spirit.
 - John 4:24 – "God is Spirit" and Jesus said that a spirit does not have "flesh and bones" – Luke 24:39.
 - 1 Timothy 1:17 – "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, *invisible*, the only wise God" (emphasis added)
 - Colossians 1:15 – "Who is the image of the *invisible* God" (emphasis added)

Not to mention the issues that arise when God the Father "procreates" with Mary to whom He's not married and since Mary was His spirit-child in heaven...

- We also know that Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not God the Father.
 - Matthew 1:18-20 says that "she [Mary] was found with child of the Holy Spirit...for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."
 - Luke 1:35 an angel tells Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will over shadow you"
 - *Even Alma 7:10 of the Book of Mormon says that Mary, "shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost"

* I am in no way implying that the *Book of Mormon* is Biblical teaching. It is NOT "Another Testament of Jesus Christ." I simply use this to point out the incorrect and inconsistent teaching of the *LDS Church* using their literature.

7. Was Jesus merely preexistent or *eternally* existent when He said He was the "I Am?"

John 8:58 – "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'"

Jehovah's Witnesses

- The *New World Translation* renders John 8:58 this way, "Most truly I say to you, Before Abraham came into existence, *I have been.*" (emphasis added)
- By changing the translation in John 8:58 and in Exodus 3:14, they effectively remove the link that Jesus was referring to Himself as Yahweh of the Old Testament in Exodus 3:14.

Biblical Teaching

- When Jesus was referring to Himself as the "I Am," the Jews, knowing Scripture, knew exactly that He was calling Himself *Yahweh* as evident by verse 59.
 - "Then they took up stones to throw at Him." And then in John 10:31 we read "Then the Jews took up stones *again* to stone Him" and when asked why, they replied, "for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, make yourself God."
- The words *I Am* [Greek: *ego eimi*] are *incorrectly* rendered as "I have been" by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and can be easily demonstrated by looking at other verses that they have correctly translated as "I am" in their own *NWT*:
 - Other places they translate *I Am* [Greek: *ego eimi*] correctly - John 4:26; 6:35, 48, 51; 8:12, 24, 28; 10:7, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5 and 18:5, 6, 8.

- As Norman Geisler correctly points out, “Consistency and scholarly integrity calls for John 8:58 to be translated the same way as all the other occurrences of *ego eimi* – that is, as “I am.”³⁰

8. Is the Father greater than Jesus?

John 14:28 – “I am going to the Father, for My Father is greater than I.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses

- Jehovah’s Witnesses will use this verse quite extensively when arguing that Jesus was not God Almighty but, in fact, a lesser god. The book “*Let God Be True*” tells us that Jehovah is greater than Jesus not only in regard to *office* but also in regard to His *person*.³¹

Biblical Teaching

- Jesus said the Father was greater than Him, not better than Him.
- The word for *greater* [Greek: *meizion*] is what is called a *quantitative* term as compared to a *qualitative term*.
 - *Quantitative* refers to the quantity of something and refers to the level, position or office of something or someone.
 - *Qualitative* refers to the quality of something and refers to the character or nature of something or someone.

Jesus is speaking *quantitatively* - referring to the Father’s position is higher, *not* His nature is higher as we can see in Hebrews 1:3 – “And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature” NASB

Muslims

- Muslims will argue that Jesus is saying that the Father is greater to Him *in nature* and thus Jesus was saying that He was not God.

Biblical Teaching

- Again, it must be pointed out that Jesus was referring to the Father being greater than Him in *position* and not in *nature*.
- For example, the President of the United States is *greater* than we are in *position* but NOT in *nature or character* since he's 100% human in nature as we are.
- *Difference in function does not indicate inferiority in nature.*
- Jesus can be seen as God in: John 1:1; 8:58; 10:30; 20:28

9. Did Thomas call Jesus God or was he just showing surprise?

John 20:28 – When Thomas saw the risen Lord Jesus and the wounds in His hands, feet, and side, he said, “My Lord and my God!”

Jehovah's Witnesses

- Jehovah's Witnesses interpret this verse in a way to avoid making it appear that Christ is God. They say that Thomas may have been expressing surprise at seeing Jesus – something like, “My God!”³²

Biblical Teaching

- In the Greek, John 20:28 literally reads, “The Lord of me and the God of me”
 - If Thomas had said the equivalent of “Oh, My God”, Jesus would have rebuked him for taking God's name in vain but instead, Jesus commended Thomas - “Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
 - What's more, if Jesus were a 'lesser god' instead of God Almighty as the Jehovah's Witnesses argue, why didn't Jesus correct him by saying something to the effect of “No Thomas, Jehovah is the only true God, I am only a lesser god. You must not put me above Jehovah God.” – Jesus did not do that.

Muslims

- In the same way, "Muslim apologists argue that Thomas was simply uttering an exclamation: 'My God!' He was not saying that Jesus was his God and Lord."³³
- Muslims teach that Jesus was "a great prophet" but nothing more and certainly not God nor the "Son of God."

Biblical Teaching

- Jesus' affirmation to Thomas' statement "The Lord of me and the God of me," only confirms the deity of Jesus. If this were not so, Jesus would have done as the apostles Paul and Barnabas did in Acts 14:11-15 when the people of Lystra said "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men."
 - "But when the apostles...heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out...'Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you'"

10. Does Jesus merely have "divine aspects or qualities" but not true Divinity?

Colossians 2:9 – "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Jehovah's Witnesses

- In the *New World Translation*, the Jehovah's Witnesses render this verse "because it is in him that all the fullness of the *divine quality* dwells bodily." (emphasis added)
- The Jehovah's Witnesses will concede that Jesus had "godlike qualities" because he was "a god" according to their *New World Translation* but he was not "Almighty God."

Biblical Teaching

- The word Godhead or Divinity [Greek: *theotes*] is rendered correctly in the Bible as Godhead.

- “fullness of Godhead” literally means, totality, complete, full measure and sum-total of deity.
- Supporting Scriptures of Jesus’ deity – Colossians 1:15-18; John 1:1; 8:58; 20:28; Philippians 2:6-8 and Titus 2:13.
- Consider these quotes from leading Scholars:³⁴
 - New Testament scholar Joseph B. Lightfoot says the phrase “fullness of deity” means “the totality of the divine powers and attributes.”
 - Greek scholar J.H. Thayer – whose Greek lexicon is called “comprehensive” by the Watchtower Society - says the Greek word in Colossians 2:9 refers to “deity, that is, the state of being God, Godhead.”
 - Greek scholar Richard C. Trench says that “St. Paul is declaring that in the Son there dwells all the fullness of absolute God...He was, and is, absolute and perfect God.”
 - Greek scholar John A. Bengel states that the Greek word refers “not merely [to] the *Divine attributes*, but [to] the *Divine Nature* itself.”
 - Bible scholar H.C.G Moule states that the Greek word “is as strong as possible; *Deity*, not only *Divinity*.”

11. Was Jesus the “firstborn” over all creation?

Colossians 1:15 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

Jehovah’s Witnesses

- Jehovah’s Witnesses will point to Colossians 1:15 as “proof” that Jesus was created at a point in time as an angel.
- “Thus he is shown to be a created being, part of the creation produced by God.”³⁵

- As we read in the Watchtower book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*, Jesus was “a very special person because he was created by God before all other things.”³⁶

Biblical Teaching

- First, it must be pointed out that *firstborn* does not mean *first-created*.
 - The word *firstborn* [Greek: *protokos*] in biblical times meant “preeminent”, “first in rank”, “heir” or “favored position.”
 - In Psalm 89:27, it is said of David “Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the Kings of the earth.” Yet David was the eighth son of Jesse according to 1 Samuel 16:10-12.
 - In Jeremiah, God says “For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.” Yet according to Genesis 41:51; 48:14, Manasseh was clearly born first.
- Second, the word for *first-created* [Greek: *protoktisis*] is never used of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.
- And finally, as scholar F.F. Bruce comments: “The word first-born had long since ceased to be used exclusively in its literal sense, just as prime (from the Latin word *primus* – ‘first’) with us. The Prime Minister is not the first minister we have had; he is the most preeminent...Similarly, first-born came to denote [among the ancients] not priority in time but pre-eminence in rank.”³⁷

Tonight we have looked at only a hand full of verses that point to the deity of Jesus Christ. We looked at:

1. 25 Biblical claims of Jesus’ deity.
2. Jesus is the Perfect Revelation of the Father.
3. Verses others use to deny Jesus’ deity.

We could literally spend many, many hours looking at the proofs of Jesus Christ's deity in regards to:

- Jesus' sinlessness
- The Glory of Jesus Christ
- The Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus Christ
- The Miracles performed by Jesus
- The Trinity

...and still have many more hours of study ahead of us.

The whole panoply of Scripture demonstrates that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. It's not that man cannot see this, read this, understand and comprehend this, but that he refuses to believe this truth.

Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832) an English cleric, writer and collector once said:

"Pure truth, like pure gold, has been found unfit for circulation, because men have discovered that it is far more convenient to adulterate the truth than to refine themselves."³⁸

Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16:15-17, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you...for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Resources used for this teaching and recommended reading material:

1. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses*, Ron Rhodes, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN 1565071069
2. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Mormons*, Ron Rhodes and Marian Bodine, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN 1565073282
3. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims*, Ron Rhodes, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN 0736910107
4. *Correcting the Cults*, Norman L. Geisler and Ron Rhodes, Baker Books, ISBN 080106550X
5. *AMG's Encyclopedia of World Religions, Cults & the Occult*, Compiled by Mark Water, AMG Publishers, 2006, ISBN 0899574602
6. *The Deity of Christ*, DVD Video and accompanying text by Charlie H. Campbell – www.AlwaysBeReady.com
7. *Kingdom of the Cults*, Walter Martin, Bethany House Publishers, Fourth Ed. 1996, ISBN 0871237962
8. *The Trinity Evidence and Issues*, Robert Morey, World Publishing, Inc., 1996, ISBN 0529106922
9. *Commentary on Acts*, John MacArthur, Moody, 1996, ISBN 0802407609
10. *The Gospel of Matthew*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995, ISBN 0800717090

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Notes

1. *The Watchtower*, 15 May 1969, p. 307, emphasis added, as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses* by Ron Rhodes, p. 173.
2. *The Watchtower*, 15 December 1984, p. 29, as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses* by Ron Rhodes, p. 173.
3. Robert M. Bowman, "How Mormons Are Defending Mormon Doctrine," *Christian Research Journal*, Fall 1989, p.24 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons* by Ron Rhodes and Marian Bodine, p. 267.
4. Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine* (Salt Lake City, UT: Bookcraft, 1966, p. 129.
5. Charlie Campbell, *The Deity of Christ*, DVD and notes, p. 1, available on www.AlwaysBeReady.com
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8. The Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry – located at http://www.carm.org/christian_science/jesusischrist.htm
9. L. Ron Hubbard, *Professional Auditor's Bulletin #31*, one page flyer as cited in Walter Martin's, *Kingdom of the Cults 4th Ed.* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1996), p. 348.
10. L. Ron Hubbard, *Certainty Magazine*, Los Angeles, CA: Publications Organization, vol. 5, no. 10. n. d. as cited in Walter Martin's, *Kingdom of the Cults 4th Ed.* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1996), p. 348.
11. http://www.scientology.org/html/opencms/cos/scientology/en_US/religion/ca_techism/pg039.html
12. Robert Morey, *The Trinity, Evidence and Issues* (Grand Rapids, MI: World Publishing, Inc. 1996), p. 288.
13. Robert Morey, *The Trinity, Evidence and Issues* (Grand Rapids, MI: World Publishing, Inc. 1996), p. 342.
14. John MacArthur, *Commentary on Acts* (Moody, 1996), p. 225
15. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995), p. 20.
16. *The NIV Student Bible*, Insight on Mark 4:41, p. 878.
17. *Decision – 2006 Christmas Issue Magazine*, *The Word Became Flesh* by Timothy George
18. *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1952), p.14 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, p. 127.
19. *Aid to Bible Understanding* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1971), p. 918 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, p. 127.
20. Robert M. Bowman, Jr., *Why You Should Believe in the Trinity* (Grand Rapids, MI, 1995), p. 97.
21. *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* 1989, p. 17 as cited in Norman L. Geisler and Ron Rhodes, *Correcting the Cults* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997), p. 121.
22. *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1989, p. 409 as cited in Norman L. Geisler and Ron Rhodes, *Correcting the Cults* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997), p. 138.

23. *Should You Believe in the Trinity* (Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), p.19 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 154.
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27. Norman L. Geisler and Ron Rhodes, *Correcting the Cults* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997), p. 160.
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33. Anis A. Shorrosh, *Islam Revealed* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1988), p.278 as cited in *Reasoning From the Scriptures with Muslims* by Ron Rhodes (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2002), p. 135.
34. All quotes with footnotes (and there were more) from Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scripture with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), pg. 81-82.
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36. *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* (Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society), 1991, introduction as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 129.
37. F.F. Bruce, in *Inerrancy*, ed. Norman L. Geisler (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 132.
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