

Thursday School
November 12, 2020

The Deity of Christ

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen (*universal)*

"Who was Jesus? Is He or is He not God?"

J. Oswald Sanders says, "If Jesus is not God, then there is no Christianity, and we who worship Him are nothing more than idolaters."

The doctrine of the deity of Christ→the fact that He was God is vital.

- **Today, there are many that deny the deity of Christ:**
 - **Christian Science→"Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus Himself declared, but the Son of God."**
 - **Jehovah's Witness→"Jesus was not God the Son." Only a perfect man and prior to His earthly life He was Michael the Archangel, the first in rank of created angels.**
 - **Unitarianism→"Jesus was a son of God but not "the Son of God." They do not believe He is unique, incomparable Christ.**
 - **Mormons→believes that Jesus was created by God and is a "brother" to Satan, that Jesus was once a man who lived on another planet. He eventually progressed to be equal with God, and He came close to colonize planet earth with "gods to be" or humans.**
 - **Muslims→believe that Jesus was a virgin-born prophet but not God.**
 - **In the last 100 years there has been a concerted effort on the part of liberal biblical scholars to destroy the deity of Christ.**
 - **Jesus Seminar→started in 1985, with a group of scholars to review the NT and determine which parts were true and which were not.**
 - **"the search for the 'Historical Jesus'" is the catch phrase for this movement.**

At the heart of all this is the question: "Is Jesus Really God?"

- **Let us consider the Scripture themselves:**
 - 700 years before Christ, Isaiah prophesied of His birth
Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 7:14,
 - Jesus, Himself claimed to be equal with the Father.
 - John 10:30; John 14:9

In the book, *Putting Jesus in His Place*, the authors present evidence for the deity of Christ under 5 categories that are arranged using the acronym H-A-N-D-S:

- **H→ Jesus shares the HONORS due to God.**
- **A→He shares the ATTRIBUTES of God. Attributes unique to God**
- **N→He shares the NAMES of God. Names that are given to God in the OT you see given to Jesus in the New Testament: LORD < Savior, King, I AM and many others. He shares the NAMES of God.**
- **D→He shares in the DEEDS that God does**
- **S→He shares the SEAT of God's throne.**

→Since Jesus is God...

1. **It is possible for us to know God**
 - We can know Him through Christ.
 - Colossians 1:15, "Christ is the image of the invisible God."
 - Jesus is the exact image of God→He does not just look like God, and He made God known to us. That means God is knowable.
 - We can know Him today because Jesus Christ who came to this earth manifest Him, revealed Him and made Him known to us.
2. **He is exalted above all other men, all other rulers, and other gods.**
 - He is the incomparable Christ. No one like Him.
 - Therefore, He is to be worshipped, revered, honored and exalted.
 - We have lost a sense of His transcendence, His greatness & Lordship.
3. **He is exclusively the way to God.**
 - If He is not divine, then He is a man.
 - And if He were just a man, it would be foolish and idolatrous to worship and follow Him.
 - John 14:6
4. **We will worship Him, honor Him, and trust Him—trust His promises and obey Him as Lord.**