

Series Title – What I Believe

Lesson Number 1

I Believe In the Deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son

Read – *John 1:1–14*

Text – *1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

Theme – Jesus Christ is God and the Son of God.

Introduction:

We've come to a logical stopping point in our series on the Bible, entitled Bible 101. I've been prayerfully considering what our next series of studies should be.

I had a couple of suggestions from class members, and will consider them for future use, but want to stay a little more basic with the next series of lessons, and the suggested topics were too advanced for right now.

So, I would like to begin a series entitled "What I Believe."

When I attended Bible college, I was taught a little creed, which I had to recite everyday of the world in chapel, and at many other times as well. That creed was:

"I believe in the inspiration of the Bible, and in the deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son, in Whom we have salvation from sin by faith through grace. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and gives guidance and power as we surrender to the Lordship of Christ. I believe that God has given to the church the responsibility to evangelize the world through the preaching of the gospel and personal soul winning. I will seek to live today so as to be ready to meet Him at His coming."

There are many simple outlines we could use to structure our next series of lessons, but I believe this simple statement of faith will be a good one for us to follow. So, our lessons for the next few weeks will basically be:

Topic 1 – I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Topic 2 – I believe we have salvation in Him, by faith through grace.

Topic 3 – I believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, and gives guidance and power as we surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

Topic 4 – I believe that God has given to the church the responsibility to evangelize the world, through the preaching of the gospel and personal soul winning.

Topic 5 – I believe Jesus is coming again.

Topic 6 – I believe that I should seek to live today so as to be ready to meet Him at His coming.

This morning, let's notice a fundamental truth – Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son.

QUESTION – I called it a fundamental truth, so let me ask, Why is the deity of Jesus Christ fundamental to our faith?

QUESTION – Is it possible to be a Christian without believing this truth (i.e. that Jesus Christ is the Son of God)?

I. Definitions

A. Deity

Webster – "The estate or rank of a god; divine character or nature; godhood, esp. the character or nature of the Supreme Being."

B. Son of God / God's Son

QUESTION – The term "Son of God" is used in various ways in scripture. Can anyone think of some of the ways this term is used?

This term "Son of God" is used in various ways in scripture:

1. To describe the pious descendents of Seth

READ – *Genesis 6:2–4*

2. To describe angels –

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

3. To describe the relationship which the saved have with God...

... both in the Old Testament –

Hosea 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people, [there] it shall be said unto them, [Ye are] the sons of the living God.

... and in the New Testament –

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2 Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

4. To describe our Savior, Jesus Christ.

QUOTE (Easton's Bible Dictionary) "It occurs thirty–seven times in the New Testament as the distinctive title of our Saviour. He does not bear this title in consequence of his miraculous birth, nor of his incarnation, his resurrection, and exaltation to the Father's right hand. This is a title of nature and not of office. The sonship of Christ denotes his equality with the Father. To call Christ the Son of God is to assert his true and proper divinity. The second Person of the Trinity, because of his eternal relation to the first Person, is the Son of God."

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Man:

Romans 1:4 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

II. Evidence that Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son.

QUESTION – Is there evidence outside of the Bible demonstrating that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

QUESTION – What evidence is provided in the Bible that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

A. He possessed (possesses) the attributes of deity.

QUESTION – A few weeks ago, when we were discussing the doctrine of THEOLOGY (i.e. what the Bible teaches us about GOD), we mentioned that God has certain attributes or characteristics. Can anyone name some of those attributes of God?

ANSWER – There are several that we discussed, but there are 5 specific attributes which are uniquely and distinctly divine (in other words, ONLY GOD HAS THEM) – they are ETERNITY, OMNIPRESENCE, OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPOTENCE, and IMMUTABILITY. **Jesus Christ possessed (possesses) them all!**

1. He is ETERNAL –

- He was before John – *John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. (John 1:15 AV)*
- He was before Abraham – *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 8:58 AV)*
- He was before the world came into being – *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (John 17:5 AV)*
- He is the firstborn of all creation – *Who is the image of the invisible God, the*

firstborn of every creature: (Colossians 1:15 AV)

- He was in existence "in the beginning" (*John 1:1*)
 - He has existed "from the days of eternity" (*Micah 5:2*)
 - He continues forever (*Isaiah 9:6f; Heb 1:11f; 13:8*)
2. He is OMNIPRESENT –
- He was in heaven while on earth – **READ John 3:13**
 - He is on earth while in heaven – **READ Matthew 18:20; 28:20**
3. He is OMNISCIENT –
- He knows all things – *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (John 21:17 AV)*
 - ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him. – *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3 AV)*
 - **QUESTION** – Are there examples in scripture of His omniscience? Were there indications that He knew everything?
 - **ILLUS** – He knew all about the woman at the well – **READ John 4:16–19**
 - **ILLUS** – He knew the thoughts of men: *But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. (Luke 6:8 AV) But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. (Luke 11:17 AV)*
4. He is OMNIPOTENT –
- QUESTION** – What one word can you think of that demonstrates the fact that Jesus Christ is ALL–POWERFUL? OMNIPOTENT.
- ANSWER** – Miracles
- He demonstrated power over demons – Mark 5:11–15
 - ... over disease – Luke 4:38–41
 - ... over death – John 11:38–44
 - ... over the elements of nature – John 2:3–11
 - ... over ALL THINGS – *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18 AV)*
5. He is IMMUTABLE (i.e. unchanging) –

And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. (Hebrews 1:12 AV)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8 AV)

B. He held (holds) the offices of deity.

QUESTION – What are some of the things that God might be expected to do? What offices of deity.

1. Creating – Jesus is the creator

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3 AV)

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or

powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (Colossians 1:16 AV)

And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: (Hebrews 1:10 AV)

2. Upholding – Jesus holds everything together.

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Colossians 1:17 AV)

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:3 AV)

C. He exercised the privileges of deity.

1. He claimed to be able to forgive sins – Matthew 9:2; Luke 7:47f
2. He claimed that He will one day raise the dead in the resurrection – John 5:25–29
3. He claimed that one day He will judge all – John 5:22

D. He is identified with the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

In other words, things that are said in the Old Testament of Jehovah, are said in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. (Homework assignment – what are some of those things?)

E. He is referred to by names that imply deity.

QUESTION – What are some of the names of Christ that imply His deity?

1. **Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end – Rev. 22:13**
2. **The resurrection and the life – John 11:25**
3. **The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God – Rev. 3:14**
4. **I AM – Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 8:58 AV)**
5. **Emmanuel – God with us – Matthew 1:22f; Isaiah 7:14**

G. He CLAIMED it! – Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? (John 10:36 AV)

These are just a few of the Biblical evidences for the deity of Jesus Christ. There are many more.

Clearly, we are justified in saying "I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son!"

III. What it means to us that Jesus is the Son of God.

A. He deserves the worship of the saved.

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

B. He deserves the fear of the lost.

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

C. His message must be listened to and obeyed.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Conclusion:

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Jesus Christ is God and the Son of God.

Next week, we will contrast the fact that Jesus is the Son of God with the fact that He is also the Son of man. You see, Jesus Christ was 100% man, but He was also 100% God. Hmmm? isn't that interesting?

We will also discuss how this fundamental truth (i.e. our believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son) separates Christianity from other religions and cults. It is a major dividing line between orthodox Christianity and everything else.

*Please direct questions, comments, and submissions to [William E. Johnson](#)
Copyright © 2002 William E. Johnson.*