

The Deity of Jesus Christ

Key passages: Matt 28:16-20, John 1:1-18, Heb 1:1-13, Phil 2:6-11, John 20:24-28

Adapted from: *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ*, by Robert Bowman, Jr and J. Ed Komoszewski (<http://www.irr.org>)

Jesus Shares the *Honors* Due to God

Glory

- In OT, abundantly clear that God (Yahweh) alone was to be honored in worship (Ex 20:2-3; 34:14)
- Jesus said He is to be honored just as the Father (John 5:23)
- The NT contains doxologies directing glory to Jesus Christ (Heb 13:20-21; 1 Pet 4:11)

Worship

- Jesus acknowledged that God is the proper object of worship (Matt 4:10)
- Jesus was the object of worship by the disciples (Matt 14:33; 28:17)
- Angels are commanded by God to worship Jesus (Heb 1:6)
- Everyone will worship Jesus (Phil 2:10-11)

Prayer

- The OT universally teaches that the Lord God is the only legitimate object of prayer (Ps 65:2, Isa 45:20,22)
- The Bible nowhere says we should pray to angels
- The NT frequently shows Jesus as an object of prayer (Acts 1:24-25, 2 Cor 12:8, Rev 22:20)

Singing Hymns

- In the OT, the Jewish people are told to sing to Yahweh ("LORD") (Ps 96:2, Isa 42:10)
- From NT times, we also see believers singing hymns to Christ (Eph 5:18-20)
- The book of Revelation reveals that believers will sing to Jesus in heaven (Rev 5:9-10)
- The Book of Psalms was the first Christian hymnbook (Luke 24:44)

Faith

- God is the primary object of faith throughout Scripture (Mark 11:22)
- Jesus also called people to believe and put their faith in Him (John 11:25; 14:1)
- The Apostles also called people to put their faith in Christ (Acts 16:31, 1 John 3:23)

Fear (Reverential)

- The OT established that we are to fear God (Deut 10:20, Pro 9:10)
- The NT teaches we are to also fear Christ (2 Cor 5:10-11, Eph 5:21)

Love and Obey

- The greatest commandment is to love God, which involves obedience (Deut 11:1)

- Jesus demanded love and obedience from his followers (Matt 10:37, John 14:21)

Jesus Shares the *Attributes* of God

- A major theme of the OT is that there is no one like God (Ex 8:10, 2 Sam 7:22)
- The whole fullness of God dwells in Christ (John 14:9, Col 1:15; 2:9, Heb 1:3)

Eternal

- Christ preexisted in divine form before becoming a human being (Phil 2:6-7, Matt 23:37)
- Jesus has always existed (John 8:58-59, John 1:1-2,14)

Uncreated

- Like God, Jesus was never created (Col 1:16)
- Question: What about Jesus being the firstborn of creation in Col 1:15? *Means prominence, privilege, authority, inheritance*
- Question: What about Jesus being the "only begotten of the Father"? *Means unique*

Immutable

- Like God, Jesus is unchangeable (Heb 1:8-12; 13:8)

Loving

- Jesus was the supreme example of love (John 15:12-13, Eph 3:17-19)
- The love of Christ was the love of God (John 15:9)

Omnipotent

- Jesus had the power to do miracles like no other
- Jesus had the power to create all things and continues to sustain all things (Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:2-3)
- Jesus is the power of God (1 Cor 1:23-24)

Omnipresent

- Jesus remotely healed people (Matt 8:5-13, Mark 7:24-30)
- Jesus said He would always be with His disciples to the end of the age (Matt 28:19-20)

Omniscient

- God knows everything
- Jesus knew the heart and thoughts of other people (Matt 12:25, Acts 1:24)
- Jesus has all knowledge to eventually judge every single person (1 Cor 4:5, Rev 2:23)

Incomprehensible

- We can't comprehend everything about God (Isa 40:18)
- The person of Jesus, God the Son, is also beyond our full comprehension (Matt 11:27; 16:16-17)

Jesus Shares the *Names* of God

The "Name of Jesus"

- In the OT, the "name of the LORD" (Yahweh) was the central and highly-exalted name (Gen 13:4, Ex 20:7)
- In the NT, the "name of the Lord Jesus" was the central highly-exalted name (Phil 2:9-11)
- The disciples did miracles "in Jesus' name" (Acts 3:6)
- New believers were baptized "into the name of Jesus" (Acts 19:5)
- People were saved "in Jesus' name" (Acts 2:21; 4:12)
- The apostles were willing to die for "the name of Jesus" (Acts 21:13)
- Believers are commanded to do everything "in the name of the Jesus" (Col 3:17)

Immanuel

- The OT affirms that the Messiah will be God (Isa 7:14; 9:6, Matt 1:23)

God

- The Gospel of John explicitly refers to Jesus as God three(3) times (John 1:1-14, 18; 20:28)
- Other parts of the NT also refer to Jesus as God (Acts 20:28, Rom 9:5, Tit 2:13, 2 Pet 1:1)

Lord

- The NT calls Jesus "Lord" 100s of times
- When NT authors cited an OT passage with the Hebrew *Yahweh*, they commonly used the Greek word *kyrios* ("LORD")
- The common word "Lord" for Jesus in the NT is the same Greek word *kyrios*

Bridegroom/Husband

- Isa 54:5; 62:5; Mark 2:19; Rev 19:7-9

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- Deut 10:17; Ps 136:2,3; Rev 17:14

Savior

- Ps 106:21; John 4:42; 2 Peter 1:11

"I Am"

- Lev 19:10ff; Ex 3:14; "I am" sayings in John; John 5:58

Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last

- Isa 41:4; 44:6; Rev 22:13

Question: What about the title Son of God? *Means His identity, nature, attributes, behavior perfectly, uniquely reflect Yahweh*

Jesus Shares in the Deeds that God Does

Jesus does the deeds that only God could do

- He made everything in the universe (John 1:3, Col 1:16)
- He sustains everything in the universe (1 Cor 8:6, Heb 1:3)
- He performed miracles like no other (Act 9:34)
- He alone provided the way of salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)
- He forgave sin (Luke 7:48, Mark 2:5-7)
- He spoke with absolute truth and authority (Matt 5:21-22; 7:28-29)
- He was crucified to pay the punish for the sins of mankind (Rom 5:8, 2 Cor 5:21)
- He claimed to be the source of real and eternal "life" (John 14:6; 10:10)
- He will some day return in glory (Matt 16:27, Tit 2:13)
- He will raise everyone from the dead (Acts 24:15, John 5:28-29)

Jesus Shares the *Seat* of God's Throne

Jesus sits on the throne of God

- Jesus claimed He would sit at God's right hand (Luke 22:69, Mark 14:62-64)
- Jesus' claim to sit at God's right hand was tantamount to claiming equality to God
- Jesus' place of exaltation is described in the highest of terms (Eph 1:20-21, Heb 7:26)

Jesus rules on the throne of God

- From His seat, Jesus will exercise universal rule over all things (Matt 28:18, Rev 12:5)
- Revelation reveals that the throne belongs to God and the Lamb (Rev 22:1; 22:3)

Jesus is worshiped on the throne

- He is worshipped by all in the same way God is worshipped (Rev 4:9-11; 5:11-12)

Jesus judges on the throne

- Jesus judges every person who has ever lived (John 5:22-23, Acts 17:31, 1 Cor 1:8)

HANDS - Honors, Attributes, Names, Deeds, Seat
See John 20:24-28