

# God the Son



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Jesus asked of his followers, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered correctly, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Others had said...

- He's the son of the Devil. This, of course, came from those who wanted him gone.
- He's a prophet...maybe John the Baptist (just returned from his early death)...maybe Jeremiah...maybe Elijah.

The answers have continued all these years: he's a great teacher, he's a created deity, he's a phantom...and so on and so on and so on...

So as we continue to unpack biblical truth concerning the Trinity, the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we turn next to Jesus. Some attempt to dispute the fact that the Bible clearly teaches us about the full deity of Jesus Christ. These attacks come from many quarters, but all of them share some similar themes. Some will argue that Jesus himself is a myth. Well, we won't even bother with this one. Others argue Jesus was a great prophet, teacher, and leader...so great he received the "Christ Consciousness," effectively rendering him deity (but his deity is qualified, as in created, ascended, now given dominion and authority by God the Father). We will see this is not the case. Others argue he is a heavenly being...less than God the Father, but more than an angel. We will see this is also not the case. Finally, we will see these disputes are false not by investigating these claims, but by investigating God's word regarding Jesus. You see, once you see the real thing, every counterfeit is easy to identify

## **1st Jesus was a Jew and so were his Disciples**

It's important to keep in mind who wrote the Gospel of John. While time does not permit a full treatment of his identity here, there are literally hundreds upon hundreds of scholarly articles and books articulating how we know John, one of the disciples of Jesus, wrote this gospel. Beyond, his name and place in the life of Jesus, it's essential to remember John as a Jew. Completely, thoroughly, inside and out, forward and back, John was Jewish. This matters, because Jews believed something about God that others did not. They believed in one God (see lesson notes from past two weeks). This is of utmost importance when we consider what he wrote in John 1:1-4.

Let's see...



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SOUND DOCTRINE: THE TRINITY

**2nd Jesus was in the Beginning. He is the Eternal One.**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God."*

Double Question: Who is the Word and what does this mean?

First Answer:

Look at verse 14...*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Second Answer:

The *"beginning"* is the beginning as in Genesis 1:1...

...then and there *"was the Word."*

...then and there *"the Word was with God."*

...then and there *"the Word was God."*

...then and there *"He was..."*

Third Answer:

In the beginning means something to a Jew. It means the "one who is there" must be God—the only one capable of being in the beginning is the One without beginning.

**3rd Jesus made everything. He is the Creator.**

*"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

Question: For the Jew, which, again, John distinctly was, who alone can be the one responsible for these two phrases?

*"all things were made through him"*

*"without him was not any thing made that was made"*

Answer: Only God can do this.

**4th Jesus possessed intrinsic life. He is the Life.**

*"In him was life, and the life was the light of men."*

Question: With the use of the word LIFE, what did John have in mind?

Answer: In keeping with his theme, the Holy Spirit inspired John to include one more attribute of deity to Jesus. While three different words appear in the Greek New Testament for life (bios/physical, psyche/soulish and zoe/principle of life), it is zoe that is used here. In fact, this became one of the "calling cards" for Jesus.



Notice 1 John 4:1-3

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the **word of life**—the **life** was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal **life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."*

**Conclusion:** We do not have just the linguistic analysis of the passage supporting the full deity of Jesus Christ, but also the personal, social, and motivational context of the Apostle John. Everything about him was Jewish. From birth, he knew the following: "Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD." Yet, to Jesus—the Word—he attributed basic qualities of deity. He did so because he walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, worked with Jesus, and worshipped Jesus. Jesus never rejected or refuted any of this. Neither, did he alter it or change it. As Immanuel, he fulfilled it...God with us.

**For Your Personal Application:** check out the following passages that clearly point out that the claims, attributes, works, and titles of Jesus demonstrate his deity.

1. His claims: John 5:18; 8:58; 10:30; 14:6,9
  
2. His attributes: John 1:48; 14:6; Hebrews 1:12; 13:8
  
3. His works (that only God can do): Mark 2:1-12; Col 1:16,17
  
4. His names:
  - A. God: Heb. 1:8; Titus 2:13; John 1:1; 20:28,29; Romans 9:5
  
  - B. Lord (Greek kurios) for Hebrew Yahweh (personal name of God in the Old Testament):  
  
Luke 1:17 compare Malachi 3:1  
Romans 10:13 compare Joel 2:32  
Phil 2:10,11 compare Isaiah 45:23,24
  
  - C. Son of Man:  
  
Mark 13:26 compare Daniel 7:13,14

