

Jesus is...God

First Baptist Church Peachtree City

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If you have a copy of the Scriptures, I invite you to turn the Gospel of John chapter One. Today, we begin a series of messages entitled, “**Jesus Is...**” Over the next eight (8) weeks, we will look at several attributes that make our Lord so incredible and wonderful. As He modeled these characteristics for us, we not only learned about Him, but we continue to see a picture of how our lives should be transformed as God molds us into His image.

As we begin this adventure, I want us to see what I believe is the most critical aspect of Jesus’ nature and character...His DEITY. As John MacArthur states, “***The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ is an essential, nonnegotiable tenet of the Christian faith.***” The Bible teaches that He is not simply God’s Son, He is Immanuel, (***God with us***), come to earth in flesh...to be our Savior. ***Let’s read God’s Word together.***

TEXT

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2.** He was in the beginning with God. **3.** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4.** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5.** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. **6.** There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7.** He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. **8.** He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. **9.** There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. **10.** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11.** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **12.** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, **13.** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14.** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15.** John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’” **16.** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. **17.** For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. **18.** No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

John does not begin like the others Gospel writers by establishing the lineage of Christ as a Jewish king. He begins by establishing that Jesus Christ is the rightful owner of every throne...as God. To the Greek, the reference to Christ as the “WORD” (Logos) is how they referred to the controlling power of the Universe. To Jews, it refers to Divine power and wisdom. In **Revelation 1:8**, Jesus referred to Himself as ‘Alpha’ and ‘Omega’ (beginning and end of all expression). **Hebrews 1:1-2** says – “***God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoke to us in His Son.***” ***God does speak...but He does not speak just for entertainment.***

We could spend a year breaking down the linguistic and symbolic meanings of these powerful, descriptive names. But today, I want to see a few of the critical characteristics of Jesus’ Deity that can not only help give context to this series, but also to our daily lives.

- A. Jesus is the **Eternal** God. (v. 1-2)
1. **"In the beginning..."** - same as Genesis 1:1 [arche – beginning of Universe]
 2. **"was"** – [eimi – continuing action...in continuous existence...not created.]
 3. **"was with God"** – [pro ton patera - face to face, intimate, intelligent interaction]
 4. **"Word was God"** – [theos en ho logos - same essence and substance]
 5. EXAMPLE: *"I always wondered when Jesus started."* or *"Jesus is not God."*
 6. Some argue that Jesus Christ was 'divine' but not God.
 7. **John 10:30**, Jesus states, **"I and My Father are ONE."** **Huge implications**
- B. Jesus is the **Creator** God. (v. 3)
1. **"All things"** by Him and through Him...**"Nothing"** created without Him.
 2. **Genesis 1** – The heavens...the earth...the waters...dry land...day...night...stars...sun...moon...plants...animals...and then on day six, mankind.
 3. John battled **Gnosticism** that argued 'matter' is evil and 'spirit' is good.
- C. Jesus is the **Life-Giving** God. (v. 4)
1. Genesis 1-2 displays Him as the Giver of physical life.
 2. [bio] – physical: **Acts 17:28** – **"In Him we live and move and exist."**
 3. [zoe] – spiritual: **Eph. 2** – **"We who were dead...made alive with Christ."**
- D. Jesus is the **Light-Giving** God. (v. 4-10)
1. He is Light...holiness and perfection...revealing our need for Him.
 2. His holiness is contrasted against the darkness of a world filled with sin.
 3. He reveals Himself to 'every man' (so that every person needs the Gospel).
 4. Romans 1:18-32 Tells how people groups have developed without the Gospel.
 5. It is natural, in our sin, to resist God...to not acknowledge Him, to turn out light.
- E. Jesus is the **Pursuer** God. (v. 11)
1. Because He is God, He is Eternally Sovereign...yet gives man a choice.
 2. He is not passive. He came, knowing not all would believe in Him.
- F. Jesus is the **Life-Changing** God. (v. 12-13)
1. Two Keys:
 - a. **Receiving** Him for who He is.
John 8:24 – **"...unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."**
 - b. **Believing** on Him for what He has done.
 2. One Transformation with many impacts: Children of God accomplished by God
1 John 3:1-3 – **"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us..."**
- G. Jesus is the **Revealing** God. (v. 14-18)
1. He came to identify with us...so that He could die for us. [propitiation]
 2. His stay was meant to be temporary...to reveal His glory in 'glimpses'
 3. His relationship with the Father was revealed in His obedience.
 5. His grace was revealed in His compassion and His mercy in His sacrifice.
 6. His truth was revealed in His righteous example that showed us the standard.
 7. His life showed us (explained to us) the heart of our incredible God.

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

IMPLICATIONS:

1. If Jesus Christ is the Eternal, Creator, Life-Giving God...then Genesis still applies:

"The God said, let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (**Genesis 1:26-27**)

- a. All people are image bearers of our Creator.
 - b. All life is precious from conception to death. (*Every child is a gift to be celebrated.*)
 - c. God chooses our gender...it is a GIFT...and He does not mess up.
2. If Jesus Christ is the Light-giving, Life-changing God...then Holiness still applies:
- a. He is the only Way, Truth, Life...path to God the Father. [NO CHURCH / RELIGION]
 - b. He is still the only ONE who has the ability to pay for and forgive sin. [NO PRIEST]

IF NOT GOD... THEN HE IS A LIAR...AND THERE IS NO REASON TO FOLLOW HIM.

3. If Jesus Christ is God in Flesh...then why can we not fully explain it?

- a. We tend to try to make God and His plans fit into our own finite minds or ideas.
- b. We must rather understand our finite life on earth in the context of His Infinite Deity.
- c. We must allow our personal ideologies to be formed in Light of His Eternal Truth.
- d. We must strive to allow Him to 'transform' our minds to His Sovereign perspective.

Why did He choose this way? The Scripture does give insight into God's heart and purpose.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Listen to me...if you don't get anything else...I want you to get these three things:

- (1) **Jesus loves you**...so much that He came and died for you so that you can have your sins forgiven and a right relationship with God for all of eternity in Heaven.
 - a. You must **receive** HIM for who HE is...GOD (in flesh sacrificed for you.)
 - b. You must **believe** on HIM for what HE did...the only acceptable way.
- (2) **You cannot pick** which parts of Jesus Christ that you like. He does not offer a cafeteria benefits package...He cannot be Savior and not Lord...God...Creator.
- (3) **The Christian life** does not have to be all figured out at the beginning. In fact the Bible says that as we follow Him...know Him...love Him...pursuing His purposes more passionately...and surrender our lives, He patiently conforms us to His image. **Requirement: As He teaches US...we believe. As He asks...we obey.**

Finally, as we consider Christ on the cross, dying for us, it should drive us to anguish...not for Him, but for our sin. If you sense sorrow or conviction, don't try to stop it. It's God's way to bring us to repentance. Do not feel sorry for Jesus. He does not need our pity. He is KING JESUS...the LIVING GOD! Every knee will bow...every tongue confess - He is LORD!

Jesus is NOT a lot of things...HE IS EVERYTHING! He is God. Do you know Him?

We will never know Him in His fullness until we worship Him in perfection in Eternity. The question is: *Would you surrender your life completely to all you know Him to be...TODAY?*