**Doctrine of Jesus Christ (Part 1)**

**Christ’s Divinity**

The position of the Bible on who Jesus Christ is, is straightforward in presenting Him as divine, the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, as well as fully man, yet having no sin nature. He is fully man and fully God. If He were not man, He could not have died for our sins, and if He were not God. His death would have accomplished nothing.

To understand his important biblical doctrine, we must understand the Bible’s position on Jesus. Jesus is presented as the Messiah, the Savior of the world who was prophesied throughout the Old Testament, who would come to die for the sins of the world and who would come again to establish righteousness in a new heaven and new earth.

**The Doctrine of Christ will be divided up into 4 major parts**

* **Part 1 – Christ’s Divinity**
* **Part 2 – Christ’s Humanity**
* **Part 3 – Christ’s Resurrection**
* **Part 4 – Christ’s Return**

**CHRIT’S DIVINITY**

**Question:**

Who are you most like – your mother or father? How is your personality and character similar?

**Was Jesus Truly God?**

**The Apostles address Jesus as God**

* John describes Jesus as God - John 1:1-3
* Thomas describes Jesus as God - John 20:27-28
* Paul describes Jesus as God - Roman 9:5
* Peter describes Jesus as God - 2 Peter 1:1

**Jesus Identifies Himself as God**

* He uses the same name as God – John 5:16-18; 8:58; Exodus 3:13-14

**Question:**

How did you get your name? Were you named after someone in your family or a famous person? Does your name affect how you want to live your life?

* Jesus claims to be equal with God – John 1:33-34
* Jesus and God the Father are One – John 10:30
* Jesus is the exact image of God – Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3

**Jesus is God – His pre-existence.** *Pre-existence* is defined as “existence in a former state or previous to something else.” In the case of Jesus Christ, His pre-existence means that, before He became a man and walked upon the earth, He was already in existence as the second Person of the triune God. The Bible not only explicitly teaches this doctrine but also implies this fact at various points throughout the Gospels and Epistles. In addition, Jesus’ own actions reveal His pre-existence.

John 8:58

John 17:5

Colossians 1:15-17

Hebrews 10:5-7

Isaiah 9:6

**Colossians 1:15**

“**And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation**.”

**Question: What does it mean that “Jesus is the 'first-born' over Creation?"**

*Helpful Notes*: There are some false religions who believe Jesus was created. If this were possible then Jesus would cease to be God. Such belief, however, conflicts with the rest of the Bible. Christ could not be both Creator and created; let’s take a careful look at the passage where Jesus is called the first-born.

The description "first-born of all creation" speaks of Christ’s preexistence. He is not a creature but the eternal Creator ([John 1:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.10)). God created the world through Christ and redeemed the world through Christ ([Hebrews 1:2-4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%201.2-4)).

Note that Jesus is called the first-born, not the first-created. The word "first-born” signifies priority. In the culture of the Ancient Near East, the first-born was not necessarily the oldest child. First-born referred not to birth order but to rank. The first-born possessed the inheritance and leadership.

Therefore, the phrase expresses Christ’s sovereignty over creation. After resurrecting Jesus from the dead, God gave Him authority over the Earth ([Matthew 28:18](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2028.18)). Jesus created the world, saved the world, and rules the world. He is the self-existent, acknowledged Head of creation.

**Jesus has attributes of God**

* He is eternal – Revelation 1:8; Colossians 1:17
* He is all powerful (Omnipotent) - John 11:43-44; Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:10
* Jesus is everywhere (Omnipresent) - Matthew 18:20
* Jesus is all knowing (Omniscient) - Acts 1:24; 1 Corinthians 4:5
* He is sovereign – Mark 2:5-7
* He is worthy to be worshipped – Philippians 2:9-11

**Question:**

Is the divinity of Jesus an easy or hard truth to accept? Why? What effect should this truth have on our lives and as a church?

**Group Study – Colossians 1:15-20**

Observation – **Make a List**

How does Paul describe Christ?

Interpretation – **Ask a Question**

Ask a question about a word or an idea that you don’t understand.

Application – **Think of a Person**

Who is one person that can be impacted by your list?

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