

## Who is Jesus? His name, nature, and work

I want to look at three things in relation to the question who is Jesus. We will look at the nature of Jesus. Second we will look at the name of Jesus, and thirdly we will look at the work that he accomplished or will accomplish.

### **Definition**

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, fully God and fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit through virgin birth. He lived a sinless life, did miracles and taught the kingdom of God, gave his life as a substitute for our sins, resurrected bodily the third day according to the scriptures, ascended to heaven, and ever makes intercession for us.

### **The Nature of Jesus**

#### **Jesus is God**

The first thing to see is that Jesus is God. Jesus is the second person in the Trinity; He is the Son of God. When we say that Jesus is God we are not just saying that he is God like. We are saying that everything that makes God God, Jesus has those things. He is the fullness of the nature of God.

**First, we see Jesus is God in the names that he gives himself and is given by others.**

- Jesus calls himself the Son of God in a number of occasions. One such occasion is found in **John 5:25**. Speaking of himself, he says that the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and then he changes to first person, indicating that he was identifying himself as the Son of God. The Jews understood this to mean that he was making himself out to be equal with God (**John 5:18**).
- Jesus is called God in **Hebrews 1:1-8**. Verse 8 says to the Son, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever." Now here in this passage we have the Son of God being the voice or the word of God. God spoke to us in His Son (1:1). So in light of that idea, turn to **John 1:1**.
  - First we see the Eternal attribute of Jesus. "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God. One of the attributes of God is eternal. Now we see that Jesus has that same characteristic.
  - Second we see that this verse shows literally that Jesus is God. "And the word was God." Literally it should be read and God was the word. And then we find that it was this Word that became flesh and dwelt among us in verse 14.
- Jesus called himself names that refer to God in the Old Testament. **John 8:58**. Jesus called himself "I AM". He even said that the Father and He were one in **John 5:30**.
  - This was a name that when Moses asked God what he should call him, God said I AM.
  - This is a name that means eternal self existing one.

- Others call him God as well.
  - Thomas acclaimed that Jesus was his God (**John 20:28**).
  - Now some who reject the fact that Jesus is God, claim that the statement that Thomas made was a statement of excitement or outburst of profanity. Kind of like Oh my God. But Thomas was a Jew who knew that taking God's name in vain was an abomination and unless he was calling Jesus God he would never had made an outburst like that.
- Jesus is called the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation, which is a name that is associated with God. Compare **Revelation 1:8** and **Isaiah 44:6** with **Revelation 22:12-13**
- Finally, Paul calls Jesus God in **Titus 2:13**

### **Second we see Jesus is God in the things that he did.**

- He demonstrated that he had power to forgive sins **Luke 5:20-21**.
- Jesus accepts worship that should only be given to God **Matthew 14:33**, when earlier he tells people that worship should only be given to God **Matthew 4:10**. Jesus says that people must honor Jesus as they honor the Father in **John 5:23**.
- He is the creator and sustainer of the universe (**Colossians 1:16-17** with **Genesis 1:1**).

### **Jesus is Man**

#### **Not only is Jesus fully God, but he is fully man.**

- **Philippians 2:6-8**. He took on the likeness of man. That means that he had a body (**John 1:14**) just like us and is proven by several verses.
  - As man in a human body, Jesus became tired (**John 4:6**). And thus he had to rest and sleep **Matthew 8:24**.
  - As man in a human body, Jesus became hungry and thirsty. **Matthew 4:2**
  - As man in a human body, Jesus became physically weak **Luke 23:26**.
- Jesus received his human body through the virgin birth **Matthew 1:18-25**.
- Not only did Jesus take on a human body, he also had a human mind as well human emotions.
  - As man with a human mind, Jesus grew in wisdom **Luke 2:52**.
  - As man with human emotions, Jesus was grieved in his soul. **John 13:21**
- Although Jesus was fully man he was without sin (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).
- Jesus took on human nature because it was necessary for the work that he was sent to do.
  - In order for him to take our place in receiving the punishment for sin **Heb 2:14-18**.
  - In order to fulfill what man had failed on **Romans 5:18-19**.

### **The Implications of the nature of Jesus**

1. **The atoning death of Jesus can truly avail for us.** It was not some outsider to the human race who died on the cross. He was one of us, and thus could truly offer a sacrifice on our behalf.
2. **Jesus can truly sympathize with and intercede for us.** He has experienced all that we might undergo. When we are hungry, weary, lonely, he fully understands, for he has gone through it all himself.
3. **Jesus manifests the true nature of humanity.** While we are sometimes inclined to draw out conclusions as to what humanity is from an inductive examination of ourselves and those around us, these are but imperfect instances of humanity. Jesus has not only told us what perfect humanity is, he has exhibited it.
4. **Jesus can be our example.** He is not some celestial superstar but one who has lived where we live. We can therefore look to him as a model of the Christian life. Of course there must be full dependence upon the grace of God. The fact that Jesus found it necessary to pray and depend upon the Father is an indication that we must be similarly reliant upon Him.
5. **Human nature is good.** When we tend toward asceticism, regarding human nature, and particularly physical nature, as somehow inherently evil or at least inferior to the spiritual and immaterial, the fact that Jesus took upon himself our full human nature is a reminder that to be human is not evil, it is good.
6. **God is not far removed from the human race.** If he could actually live among us at one time as a real human person, it is not surprising that he can and does act within the human realm today as well.

### **The Name of Jesus**

The name of Jesus Christ is very important in Christianity. The Bible places a great amount of significance on the name of Jesus Christ. Let us look at the significance of his name.

1. First I like to point out that Christ is not Jesus' last name. Christ is a title that is given to him because of who he is. Christ or Christos is the Greek way of saying Messiah. Literally He would be called Jesus, the Christ or Jesus the anointed one, or Jesus the Messiah. Jesus is his name, and Christ is his title.
2. Salvation is found only in the name of Jesus. **Acts 4:12.** Salvation from sin and the way to God cannot be found in any other name or place then Jesus the Christ. **John 14:6** says that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one come to the Father but through him.
3. Jesus puts great significance in his name, by saying that if we ask in his name, he will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **John 14:13.**

**The Work of Jesus**

1. Jesus, while he was on the earth, performed many miracles and taught the kingdom and will of God.
  - a. His miracles were done for the benefit of others. **Matthew 9:18.**
  - b. His miracles were done to validate that he was truly from God. **Acts 2:22**
  - c. He taught the gospel of the kingdom **Matthew 4:23**
2. He died for the sins of the world in our place.
  - a. He took on the sin that we did so that we might become his righteousness. **2 Cor 5:21**
  - b. He took on the curse that was upon us. **Galatians 3:13**
  - c. He died for all mankind **1 John 2:2**
3. He resurrected bodily from the grave.
  - a. **Acts 2:23-24**
  - b. It was bodily **Luke 24:39**
  - c. **1 Corinthians 15**
4. He ascended into heaven **Acts 1:9-11**
5. And he is making intercession for us right now. **Hebrew 7:25** and **Romans 8:34**

Jesus asked his disciples, Who do you say that I am? That question he asks of us. We have seen the answer to this question today. Because of who he is, **Philippians 2** tells us that God exalted him above every name that is named; so that every knee should bow and ever tongue confess that he is Lord. Because of who he is, and what he has done, he is worthy of our total worship as we bow our knee and confess him as Lord.