

Doctrine of Deity of Christ

1. Christianity is a life, and world view. It is involved with the great questions of theology, cosmology, anthropology, and epistemology.
2. As a worldview, Christianity is challenged by alternative views, which come and go, while orthodox Christianity stands.
3. Discussion about various world views focus on natural revelation, and special revelation. Truth is revealed through the heavens, through nature, but also through the prophets, the Scriptures, and Jesus Christ.
4. All truth is one, and all truth is God's truth.
5. Christianity is based on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is believed to be very God of very God.
6. Christ is believed to be very God of very God because of the Biblical evidence, which is authoritative.
7. Because the Bible is authoritative, all the ethical issues of morality can be guided. Moral issues include abortion, homosexuality, marriage, euthanasia etc.
8. If the Bible is not the ultimate basis of authority, then other authorities will be sought.
 - Science.
 - Psychology.
 - Psychiatry.
 - Church councils.
 - Government.
 - Community organizers and agitators.
 - A charismatic leader.
9. If people inside the church refuse to believe the Bible is normative, then all is lost, for there will be no final authority.
10. If people inside the church cannot unite on what the Bible teaches, then again, much is lost, for there will be great divisions.
11. The deity of Christ was a concern for the first three hundred years of the Christian faith. If monotheism is true, and it is, how can divinity be attributed to God the Father, and Jesus Christ? The church explained the distinctions within the Godhead in the doctrine of the trinity, thereby insisting that God is one in essence.

12. The distinctions within the Godhead are not essential to the essence of God.

Special Note.

The term “essential” is commonly used to refer to something that is so important it cannot be negotiated. But in theological terms, the term does not mean a difference in the “essence” of the Being of God.

13. The evidence for the deity of Christ is familiar to Christians. The Logos was distinct from God, for the Logos was “with” God in an intimate way (Greek, *pros*, face to face). But then, the Logos was God.

- Jesus is God. *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
- God became Man. *John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

14. Jesus received worship, while the apostles did not, nor did the angels.

- Jesus received worship. *John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*
- The Apostles did not allow themselves to be worshipped. *Acts 14:11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. 14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: 16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.*
- Angels did not allow worship. *Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

15. Jesus claimed the sacred name for God for Himself. He is the eternal “I AM”.

- Jesus is the Vine. *John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
- Jesus is the Bread of Life. *John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*
- Jesus is the Light of the World. *John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
- Jesus is the Door. *John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.*
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd. *John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*
- Jesus is the Resurrection and Life. *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? 27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*
- Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

16. Jesus declared that He was the LORD of the Sabbath.

- *Matthew 12:8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.*

17. Jesus claimed the power to forgive sins.

- *Matthew 9:6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

18. Because the Jews understood the claim of Jesus to divinity, they took up stones to kill Him.

- *John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*