

Doctrine of Word and Wisdom

1. The perfect revelation of Christ to the Father is expressed in part when Jesus is described as the Word (logos) of God (John 1:1-18).
2. The Word is the self-expression of God; that self-expression has personal status, existing eternally with God.
3. The Word by which God created the world and by which He spoke through the prophets "became flesh" in the fullness of time (John 1:14), living among men and women as Jesus of Nazareth.
 - *Psalms 33:6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*
4. Much that is said in the Old Testament about the Word of God is paralleled by what is said of the Wisdom of God: "*The Lord by wisdom founded the earth*" (Proverbs 3:19).
5. In the New Testament Christ is portrayed as the personal Wisdom of God, the one through whom all things were created.

Wisdom of God

- *1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

Creator

- *1 Corinthians 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*
- *Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*
- *Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

The Holy One of God

6. This title was given to Jesus by Peter, and remarkably, by a demon-possessed man (Mark 1:24).
 - *Peter. John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*

- Demon possessed Man. *Mark 1:24* Saying, *Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*
7. In their preaching, the apostles called Jesus "*the Holy One and the Just*" (Acts 3:14). This was a name belonging to Him as the Messiah, indicating He was especially set apart for God.
 8. This title also emphasized His positive goodness and His complete dedication to the doing of His Father's will. Mere "*sinlessness*," in the sense of the absence of any fault, is a pale quality in comparison to the unsurpassed power for righteousness that filled His life and teaching.

The Lord

9. "*Jesus is Lord*" is the ultimate Christian creed. "*No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 12:3). A Christian, therefore, is a person who confesses Jesus as Lord.
10. Several words denoting lordship were used of Jesus in the New Testament.
 - *kurios*. The most frequent, and the most important in relation to the doctrine of His person, was the Greek word *kurios*. It was frequently given to Him as a polite term of address, meaning "*Sir*." Sometimes the title was used of Him in the third person, when the disciples and others spoke of Him as "*The Lord*" or "*The Master*."
 - Lord. After His resurrection and exaltation, however, Jesus was given the title "*Lord*" in its full, christological sense. Peter, concluding his address to the crowd in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, declared, "*Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:36).
 - Maranatha. The title "*Lord*" in the Christological sense must have been given to Jesus before the church moved out into the Gentile world. The evidence for this is the invocation "Maranatha" or "O Lord, come!" (1 Corinthians 16:22). The apostle Paul, writing to a Gentile church in the Greek-speaking world, assumed that its members were familiar with this Aramaic phrase. It was an early Christian title for Jesus which was taken over untranslated. It bears witness to the fact that from the earliest days of the church, the one who had been exalted as Lord was expected to return as Lord.

Another key New Testament text that shows the sense in which Jesus was acknowledged as Lord is (Philippians 2:5-11). In these verses Paul may be quoting an early confession of faith. If so, he endorsed it and made it his own.

This passage tells how Jesus did not regard equality with God as something which he should exploit to his own advantage. Instead, He humbled himself to become a man, displaying "the form of God" in "the form of a servant." He became "obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil. 2:8-11).

The "*name, which is above every name,*" is probably the title Lord, in the highest sense that it can bear. The words echo (Isaiah 45:23), where the God of Israel swears, "*To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath [or, make confession].*"

In the Old Testament passage the God of Israel denies to any other being the right to receive the worship which belongs to Him alone. But in the passage from Philippians He readily shares that worship with the humiliated and exalted Jesus. More than that, He shares His own name with him. When human beings honor Jesus as Lord, God is glorified.

- God. If Jesus is called Lord in this supreme sense, it is not surprising that He occasionally is called God in the New Testament. Thomas, convinced that the risen Christ stood before him, abandoned his doubts with the confession, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

But the classic text is (John 1:1). John declared that the Word existed not only "*in the beginning,*" where He was "*with God,*" but also *actually "was God."* This is the Word that became incarnate as real man in Jesus Christ, without ceasing to be what He had been from eternity.

The Word was God in the sense that the Father shared with Him the fullness of His own nature. The Father remained in a technical phrase of traditional theology, "*the fountain of deity.*" But from that fountain the Son drew in unlimited measure. The Bible thus presents Christ as altogether God and altogether man-- the perfect mediator between God and mankind because He partakes fully of the nature of both.

11. There is much Scriptural evidence for Christ as the Son of Man.

- *Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.*
- *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.*
- *Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*
- *Matthew 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.*
- *Matthew 12:8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.*

- *Matthew 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*
- *Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
- *Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;*
- *Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*
- *Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*
- *Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*
- *Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.*
- *Matthew 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.*
- *Matthew 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.*
- *Matthew 17:22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:*
- *Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*
- *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
- *Matthew 20:18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,*
- *Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
- *Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

- *Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

12. Angels in heaven and men on earth recognized Jesus as the Son of God.

- *The Angel Gabriel. Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*
- *The Devil. Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Luke 4:3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. Luke 4:9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:*
- *The Demons. Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time? Mark 3:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. Luke 4:41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.*
- *The Twelve Disciples. Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*
- *The Apostle John. John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*
- *Nathanael. John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*
- *The Centurion. Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.*

- John Mark. Mark 1:1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*
- Jesus. Luke 22:70 *Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.*

13. Some did not recognize Jesus as God.

- The High Priest. *Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*
- Many Citizens of Jerusalem. *Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.*

Special Note.

The main thoughts were extracted in part from *Nelson's Bible Dictionary*