

GF 101: Understanding the Trinity

Lesson 4.4 (chapter, “Do the New Testament Writers Teach the Deity of Christ?”)

1. When Jesus asserted that he and the Father are one (John 10:30), the Jews sought to stone him. Why, and what can we understand from this reaction?

When Jesus asserted that he and the Father are one, the Jews sought to stone him, because they considered it blasphemy—Jesus made himself God. This statement is a plain proof of how the Jews and the author of the Gospel himself viewed Jesus—as divine, as God.

2. The apostle Paul likewise viewed Jesus as God. How is Philippians 2:6 “conclusive proof of how Paul conceived of Christ”?

We read there (Philippians 2:6): “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God . . .” And “form” here can imply nothing less than that he possessed the whole of the qualities that constitute God. Because Christ was in the form of God, he is equal with God. This passage leaves no room to doubt that Paul thought Christ divine.

3. The apostle Peter also ascribes deity to Christ during his speech on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:34). What Old Testament passage does quote, applying it to Christ?

Psalm 110:1, “The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand until I make thy foes thy footstool.”

4. On page 51, the author writes that “Further proof of Christ’s deity I find then, first, in the divine attributes ascribed to him.” What are five of those divine attributes?

- *Eternal*
- *Omnipresent*
- *Unchangeable*
- *Omniscient*
- *All-powerful (omnipotent)*

5. Another proof of Christ's deity is the part he is said to take in the divine works. What seven are five of those divine works?

- *He takes part in the work of creation*
- *He participates in the work of Providence*
- *He performed wonders*
- *He forgave sins*
- *He will judge*

6. The Evangelists, Paul, and the author of Hebrews make Christ the direct object of what two things?

- *He is the direct object of the Christian's prayer.*
- *He is the object of the Christian's faith.*

7. The Bible says that Christ is also active in the work of salvation. How is he active in this role?

- *Christ is the source of Spiritual Life (1 Corinthians 1:4–9, 30–31, 15:45).*
- *He is said to dwell in us (Galatians 2:20).*
- *By him we are quickened from the dead to spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1–6).*
- *On the last, at the sound of his voice, all mankind will be called forth from the grave (John 5:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).*

8. What does the name "Immanuel" mean, and what is the significance of this name?

Immanuel means "God with us." This passage loses all force and meaning if we ascribe anything less than deity to Christ.

9. What is the importance of the angel in Matthew 1:21 saying, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"?

The angel here alludes to Psalm 130 where it is said God will redeem Israel from their sins. In the New Testament, Jesus is substituted for God, which fact shows that Jesus was conceived of here as God by the biblical writers.