

# Biblical Support for Jesus

## Christ being God

The topic of Jesus deity has come under scrutiny by many in this day and age. Our pluralistic society is fine in accepting a general notion of "God", but cringes at a God revealed in the man of Jesus, who boldly proclaims to be the only way to God. This discomfort has led many to conclude that Jesus was a good teacher, or even something supernatural, like a super human, but not truly God himself.

The Bible teaches in **II Timothy 3:16**, that **"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...."** I invite the reader to set aside your notions of Jesus and examine for yourself what the Bible teaches. My obvious assumption is that the Bible we hold today accurately records the teachings of Jesus.

There is, admittedly, a human mystery in trying to understand the relationship between God the Father and Son: God the Spirit will not be discussed in the paper. The Bible teaches that Jesus has both a human nature and divine one. Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man, speaking of his humanity, and the Son of God, which speaks to his divine nature. This parallel is clearly seen in Philippians chapter 2. Consider:

**Phil. 2:5-8** - "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God (deity), did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in likeness of men (humanity). <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and to the glory of God the Father."

The aim of this study is to stress the importance and necessity of Jesus the Christ being divine. You will see clearly that the Bible teaches that Jesus shares God's glory, his nature, and his Image. He accepted worship, claimed to be pre-existent with God, claimed titles of deity, forgave sins, and performed other acts attributed to God alone. Jesus is shown as co-creator, sustainer, savior, king, and Lord, all titles of deity.

For those considering the person of Jesus, you must examine if your image of Jesus holds up to what the Bible says of Jesus. Is he a good teacher or is he God? In the examination of the verses to follow, the Bible verses are in **Red**, with my commentary added after the verse in parenthesis. Old Testament verses are added to show how Jesus claims match up with the teachings of the Old Testament. This would need to be consistent if Jesus were God. Like any writing, context is every. Read every passage to make sure I am not snatching the meaning from the text and adding my own twist to it as many do today.

The Bible has an amazing consistency considering it was written over a 1500 year period, by 60 human authors, in 3 languages. This consistency and the way the Bible has been preserved both attest to something supernatural and beyond explanation.

## I. 20 Passages that testify to the deity of Jesus Christ.

1. [Matthew 7:21](#) (Jesus speaking) Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
2. [John 1:1](#) - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Not written in isolation, this verse affirms Jesus teaching that he and the Father were pre-existent before creation, as other verses attest. It shows his existence before creation, his 'oneness' with God the Father, and his Deity. Some today try to change the Greek to read "The Word was a God", making Jesus a separate God.)
3. [John 1:14](#) - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (Note this "Logos" of God is listed as being God, with God in the beginning, having taken flesh, and possessing glory. John's attempt to support Jesus claim that he and the Father were one as he later stated. Also supports Jesus teachings the he is pre-existent)
4. [John 5:18](#) - "For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God". (The original audience clearly understood his claims, and Jesus never refuted their understanding because it was an accurate assumption.)
5. [John 8:24](#) - "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (Note: In the Greek, "He" is not there. Using the divine name "I AM" puts you on level with God. Jesus being able to forgive sin is consistent with his deity. If you question his calling himself I AM, note John 8:58 below, in which he made the claim clearly, and it was clearly understood by the original audience.  
  
OT Parallel [Exodus 3:14](#) - "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Here's where God established himself using the name I AM, Jesus uses the same title in John 8:58 below).
6. [John 8:58](#) is another example. Jesus declared, "I say unto you, before Abraham was, I Am. Again, in response, the Jews take up stones in an attempt to stone Jesus." (The original audience clearly understood Jesus claim to be God, enough to attempt to kill him. Jesus never refuted the accusation of deity after he made the claim. Note in John how many opportunities he had to set things right if he was not claiming to be God).
7. [John 10:30-33](#) - "I and the Father are one." <sup>31</sup>The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning me?" <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy; and because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God." (Again, one of the strongest cases for Jesus divinity: A. There is no record of Jesus refuting the claim, which he easily could have at this time and rightfully should have were the claims incorrect, B. The original audience clearly understood his direct claim to deity here as they were going to stone him over the claim).
8. [John 14:6](#) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really knew me, you would know<sup>[b]</sup> my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

(After the coming of Jesus to earth, it was revealed that Jesus as the Son would be the exclusive way to access God. This is not inconsistent or new, it just offers an expanded view of who God is).

9. [John 14:9](#) "He that has seen me has seen the Father; and how says you then, Show us the Father? (In this passage Jesus explains to his follower that to see him is to see the Father (God). The mystery of the Trinity is that although God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit reveal themselves in 3 'persons' to see one is to see the other. They are one in the grandest sense.

10. [John 14:23](#) <sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him". (Notice the language here, "We will come, we will make our home" Jesus is speaking as himself and the Father as one, not of himself as a lower being. If Jesus were not God how could he speak this way of God?).

11. [John 17:5](#) (Jesus speaking as a human to his Father) **And now, O Father, glorify me with thine own self with the glory which I had with you before the world was.** (In Jesus recorded personal prayer to God the Father, he speaks of sharing glory with God the Father, consistent with his deity, as is his pre-existence spoken of here).

12. [John 20:28](#) - "Thomas answered and said to Him (Jesus) , **"My Lord and my God!"** (Don't ignore that Jesus again did not refute the claim of being Lord and God. If he were not divine, would it please God to have one of his creations accepting the titles Lord and God, when those titles were given to Israel to be exclusively used of God? Satan was cast down from heaven for such self-exaltation.)

13. [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) ...lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, **who is the image of God,** should shine unto them.

14. [Philippians. 2:5-8](#) - "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (If Jesus does not share deity with the Father, how could God allow every knee to worship him if we are to worship God alone? It is inconsistent, and supports the shared deity of Christ).

15. [Col. 1:14-17](#) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.  
(Not much to state here but the obvious)

16. [Col. 2:9](#) - "For in Him (Jesus) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." (In vs 10, Paul further explains that 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. Col. 2:10 states that Christ is 'the head over every power and authority'.  
( These statements are all exclusively true of God).

17. [1 Timothy. 6:14-16](#) I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. (How can these titles/claims about Jesus be true if he were not divine?)
18. [Titus 2:13](#) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; (The “and” here speak both of Jesus as both the great God and our Savior the Messiah).
19. [Hebrews. 1:1-3](#) <sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Yet another NT writer affirms the deity of Jesus)

(The writer of the book of Hebrews begins by affirming the Deity of Christ. He affirms that Jesus was the central focus of creation, and that he shared the exact representation of God. This means they are from the same ‘stuff’.) Role does not mean superior. The Bible frequently states that the Father appointed Jesus to do this and that, and that the Father is ‘above all’. This would certainly be true when Jesus took on humanity).

[20. Hebrews. 1:8](#) - "But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom." (Jesus is God, and King as God the Son—no contradictions from PS. 45:6 which was quoted in Hebrews.)

Quoted from [Psalm 45:6](#), "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom." Jesus will be the future king and rule over all the nations of this world. This has not yet played out historically, but it is predicted prophetically.)

## **II. Jesus called others to worship God alone, yet repeatedly received worship himself without protest.**

1. [Matt. 4:10](#) - "Then Jesus said to him, 'Begone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall **worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.**"'" (Yet notice in later passages Jesus allows himself to be worshiped, how can this be rationalized if Jesus is not God?)
2. [Rev. 22:9](#) (In a heavenly vision John started to bow down to the angel showing him the vision but was rebuked.) "But he (the angel) said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. **Worship God!**" (This verse added to show a direct rebuke in worshipping someone other than God. It is also a refutation to those who would suggest Jesus being worshiped was cultural, not an act of actual worship as God).
3. [Matt. 2:2](#) - "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." (Even the pagans knew a Jewish King/Messiah was coming, and they came to worship him).
4. [Matt. 14:33](#) - "And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly **God's Son!**" (Notice any complaints from Jesus the teacher, directing them to worship God alone?)

5. [Matthew 28:9](#) - "And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him." (Some might argue this was just cultural respect, not like worship to a deity, but the verse is not in isolation).
6. [John 9:35-38](#) - "Jesus heard that they had put him out; and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered and said, "And who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." <sup>38</sup> And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him." (Jesus is called Lord and worshiped, does not refute assumption of deity).
7. [Heb. 1:6](#) - "And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, 'and let all the angels of God worship Him.'" (The angels worshiping other than God would be a heavenly outrage. Some misinterpret Jesus being called "The first-born of all creation to understand that he was created by God, not pre-existent with God. This view is not consistent with the many verses that speak of his deity).
8. [Rev. 7:17](#) "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Note the relationship between the Lamb on the throne like a shepherd, and "God" comforting his people? Jesus can only be at the center if he is God).
9. [Rev 22:1 & 3](#) There term "The throne of God and of the Lamb" are used together twice, without distinct. This is consistent if both God almighty (the Father) and the Lamb (The Son) are both deity.

### **III. Jesus takes the title of Deity: The First and the Last**

1. [Isaiah 44:6](#) - "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.'"
2. [Rev. 1:17](#) – (Jesus speaking) "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."
3. [Rev. 22:12-13](#) <sup>12</sup>"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. (The 2 passages of Revelation are perfectly consistent and right for Jesus to claim if he was God)

### **IV. God shares His glory with no one—except Jesus.**

1. [Isaiah 42:8](#) "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (If God is unchangeable as he claims, it would be inconsistent for the Father to share his glory and praise with Jesus unless he was God)
2. [Isaiah 48:11](#) "For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another."

(All over the New Testament Jesus is given Glory by the Father. There is no way to reconcile this if Jesus is not God-- if you accept the bible's teachings about God).

## **V. Old Testament Prophecy declares the future Messiah would be divine (written centuries before Jesus)**

1. [Isaiah 7:14](#) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**. (This was written 712 years before Jesus was born, perfectly fulfilled in Jesus.)

2. [Matthew 1:23](#) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew quotes Isaiah 7 to show how Jesus was this person, the fulfillment of God's promise).

3. [Isaiah 9:6](#) For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder: and his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **The mighty God**, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

4. [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#) "Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS** (an exclusive title of Deity).

5. [Revelation 19:16](#) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**" (Again, another exclusive claim of deity).

### **SUMMARY:**

Those who have been taught doctrine contrary to the deity of Christ probably have an alternate understanding for many of these verses quoted. **Why is it essential that Jesus be fully God?** The most important answer: The Bible teaches it to be true.

If you deny Jesus deity, consider these 3 questions:

1. Why would the Father allow Jesus to receive worship, glory, and honor when it is explicitly taught that God is the only allowable object of worship?
2. Was Jesus a fraud when the original audience accused him of claiming to be God, acting like God, forgiving sins like God, being one with God, having glory like God, and never refuting those claims?
3. If you believe there was a conspiracy by the biblical writers to make Jesus look like God? What evidence do you have for this conspiracy?
4. When Jesus claimed to be "I AM": how can this not be ascribed as a claim to deity? Would he have not rightfully deserve to be stoned (as a Jew) for such a claim as the people tried to do?

To the reader I challenge you to reconsider the view that Jesus is the highest creature in heaven, but not God, for this is what the Bible clearly teaches. As God, Jesus is worthy of all glory, honor, wisdom, praise and adoration. He's the right character to be the final Judge of all things, and the Savior and King of those who believe.

#### Sources:

The New International Version of the Bible for most verses quoted. Some beginnings in the compilation of this paper were found thanks to Christian Apologetic and Research Ministry at [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)