

The Jesus of the Bible - 2

Son of God, not 'God the Son'

Jesus Christ as shown in the Bible is not equal to God, nor did he always exist. He is subordinate to his Father, although he is the supreme demonstration of God's glorious character.

God is the God and Father of Jesus Christ. Jesus is His only begotten Son and His totally obedient servant. In his earthly life Jesus was of our human nature yet showed the glory of his Father's moral characteristics.

The following sets of verses show how the New Testament makes this point very clear in a number of ways.

How Jesus is Described

The angel answered and said to [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

In Part 1 of this series, we saw from the Old Testament that Jesus Christ was clearly in the mind of his Father from the beginning. He was in fact the Lamb of God "slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). His personal existence however began

with his conception by God's power and his birth as the Son of God. At this point in time God's purpose was embodied in the Lord Jesus and so the apostles saw his glory as "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] himself likewise shared in the same, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Though of divine birth, Jesus shared our human nature. He endured all the temptations that come our way, while never committing a sin (see also Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God'" (John 20:17).

The risen Lord speaking here to Mary Magdalene explained that her God and Father is also his God and Father.

The Father and the Son

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).



This is a consistent Apostolic description of God as Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, used by Paul here and in Ephesians 1:3, and Peter in 1 Peter 1:3.

There is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live (1 Corinthians 8:6).

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

Father and Son are clearly described as separate identities but with a single purpose. In fact, Jesus is clearly positioned as the mediator between God and man, a role he could not fulfil if he were actually God Himself.

In the Future

Even in the future, when he occupies the most high-ranking position as ruler of God's Kingdom, we see that Jesus Christ will remain subordinate to his Father.

For he must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under his feet." But when he says "all things are put under him," it is evident that He [the Father] who put all things under him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son himself will also be subject to Him [the Father] who put all things under him [the Son], that God may be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:25–28).

In Revelation, Jesus was sending his message from heaven, delivered as a



vision to John, who wrote it down. When writing to those who would remain faithful to him, or would “overcome”, he placed quadruple emphasis on “my God”. So, God is the Father, and the Father is God; He is the God of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of **my God**, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of **my God** and the name of the city of **my God**, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from **my God**. And I will write on him my new name (Revelation 3:12).*

All of these references, used in different places and for different audiences, give the same message: Jesus is the Son of God, second only to God Himself in authority, but is not part of God's being.

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