

Truly God: Christ's Divine Nature

I. Introduction

- A. "Four statements must be understood and affirmed in order to attain a complete biblical picture of the person of Jesus Christ" (from ESV Study Bible):
1. Jesus Christ is **fully and completely divine**.
 2. Jesus Christ is **fully and completely human**.
 3. The divine and human **natures of Christ are distinct**.
 4. The divine and human natures of Christ are completely **united in one person**.
- B. Last time we looked at points 3 & 4
1. **Hypostatic Union**: "the union of Christ's human and divine natures in one being"¹
 2. An example of one passage that supports this: Isaiah 9:6
 3. Chalcedonian Creed (451) "our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in divinity and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man"
- C. Today, we will zoom in on point 1 – Col 2:9 "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily"

II. Direct Affirmations of Jesus's Deity²

- A. The word "God" (*Theos*) is used of Jesus
1. Hebrews 1:8 "of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever'"
 2. John 1:1, 14 "the Word was with God and the Word was God ... the Word became flesh"
 3. Romans 9:5 "the Christ, who is God over all"
 4. 2 Peter 1:1 "our God and Savior Jesus Christ"
 5. Titus 2:13 "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"
- B. The title "Lord" is used to refer to Jesus
1. "The word Κύριος is used to translate the name of the Lord [Yahweh] 6,814 times in the Greek Old Testament. Therefore, any Greek-speaking reader at the time of the New Testament who had any knowledge at all of the Greek Old Testament would have recognized that, in contexts where it was appropriate, the word "Lord" was the name of the one who was the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, the omnipotent God."³
 2. There are times when the term "Lord" is clearly used of Jesus in this OT LORD way.
 - a. Luke 2:11
 - b. Luke 1:43
 - c. Matthew 3:3
- C. Jesus claimed to be equal to God
1. "I am" (John 8:56-59, cp. Ex. 3:14)
 2. "The Alpha and the Omega" (Revelation 22:13, Rev. 1:8)
 3. "The Son of Man" (Daniel 7, Matt. 26:63-65)

¹ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 558.

² I relied heavily on Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* for this section.

³ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, 544.

III. Attributes and Activities that Demonstrate Jesus's Deity

- A. Eternal and Self-existence (John 8:58)
- B. Omnipotence (John 2:7-11, Matt. 8:23-27)
- C. Authority over Demonic Forces (Matt. 8:28-29)
- D. Omniscience (Mark 2:6-8, John 6:64)
- E. Forgiving Sins (Mark 2:5-12)
- F. Promises to answer prayers directed toward him (John 14:14)
- G. Receiving worship (John 20:27-29, Phil 2:9-11, Rev. 19:9-11, Heb. 1:6, Rev. 5:11-14, Is. 42:8)

IV. Some Groups that Deny Jesus's Deity

- A. Arianism – in the early 300s
 - 1. God created the Son – he is unique in that way, but is not God – because he had a beginning and does not possess divine nature.
- B. Mormonism – 1830s
 - 1. “According to LDS doctrine, the Son of God was the product of divine procreation. Jesus, according to LDS teachings, is the firstborn of many spirit children made by heavenly parents. They teach that Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother conceived and gave birth to spirit children—one of whom is Jesus and his brother is Lucifer.”⁴
- C. Jehovah Witnesses -1870s
 - 1. “The Watchtower teaches that prior to his incarnation, Jesus Christ was a spirit creature in heaven. God supposedly created Christ first among all creation.”⁵
- D. Muslims - 610
 - 1. Jesus was a prophet of God and a servant of Allah, but not the Son of God.

V. Why Jesus's Divinity Matters

- A. Only the infinite God could pay the infinite penalty of our sin
- B. He truly reveals God's heart toward his people (John 1:16-18, 3:16-17)

⁴ <https://g3min.org/the-false-jesus-of-mormonism/?srsltid=AfmBOoqZcBkwNqgEbzJB0ZFLb1WTIQ4RYdr-wMgyX2PqEZ-O5dkZK61q>

⁵ <https://thecripplegate.com/why-im-not-a-jehovah-witness/>