1. **What is it? (definition; summary of the doctrine)**

**Introduction**

Jesus is either Lord, Liar or Lunatic….

**What is a Deity?**

It is a supernatural being whose attributes are sinless, divine, holy, whose name is sacred and to be revered. The characteristics of deity in Jesus Christ are described as eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent and immutable. Jesus Christ is equal with God the Father. He is worshiped as God. His name is assigned equal standing with God the Father. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is eternal God! As a member of the Trinity, He always existed. The Lord Jesus Christ is also coequal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Spirit. This is a great mystery!

Colossians 1:15-17 - **“**And He [Jesus Christ] keeps on being the exact image of the invisible God, the privileged first-born with reference to all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

In eternity past, Jesus Christ had the same essence as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. In time, He still had the same functions as the deity, but He also became true humanity. He is now different from the Father and the Holy Spirit because He is also true humanity and therefore, He is unique. To prove that Jesus Christ is God, we can begin by pointing out Genesis 1:1 - **“**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Those who deny that Jesus is Lord must be asked, Who created the Heavens and the earth? The answer of course, God did! Yet, Colossians 1:15-17 says The Lord Jesus Christ did. Jesus Christ is eternal God and as a member of the Trinity, He always existed as God. There never was a time when He was not God.

The Lord Jesus Christ is God, He created all humanity, and He is unique. Everything that we will ever possess, all we will ever have depends upon the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Understanding and mastering this doctrine (to the greatest extent possible) is important.1 John 2:22-23 - “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.” The Trinity is eternal, Christ is a member of the Trinity, therefore, Christ is eternal.

**Son of God: Jesus Is God**

The Bible teaches that Jesus is not merely someone who is a lot like God, or someone who has a very close walk with God. Rather, Jesus is the Most-High God Himself! Titus 2:13 - “We are looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” Upon seeing the resurrected Christ, Thomas cried out in John 20:28 - “My Lord and my God!” Likewise, the book of Hebrews gives us God the Father’s direct testimony about Christ. John 1:18 - “But of the Son he says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.” The gospel of John calls Jesus the only begotten Son. Another way the Bible teaches that Jesus is God is by showing that he has all the attributes of God:

• **He Knows Everything (Omniscient)**. Matthew 16:21 - “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.” Luke 11:17 - “But he, knowing their thoughts…” John 4:29 - “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”

• **Is Everywhere (Omnipresent).** Matthew 18:20 - “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 28:20 - “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Acts 18:10 - “For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.”

• **Has All Power (Omnipotent).** Matthew 8:26–27 - “And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!” Matthew 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Luke 7:14–15 - “Then He came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.” Revelation 1:8 - “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

• **Depends on Nothing Outside of Himself for Life.** John 1:4 - “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 8:58 - “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”

• **Rules Over Everything.** Matthew 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Revelation 1:5 - “...and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth…” Revelation 19:16 - “On His robe and on His thigh He has a Name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

• **Never Began to Exist and Never Ceases to Exist (Eternal).** John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God…” John 8:58 - “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

• **Is Our Creator.** John 1:3 - “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” Colossians 1:16 - “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Hebrews 1:2 - “In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” Revelation 4:11 - “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

*In other words, everything that God is, Jesus is. For Jesus is God. Specifically, Jesus Is God the Son.”*

**The Doctrine of the Trinity**

The doctrine of the Trinity states that God is one being, and this one God exists as three distinct Persons, or one Essence in three distinct Persons. This truth means, first, that we must distinguish each Person of the Trinity from the other two. The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Holy Spirit or the Father, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. They are each a distinct center of consciousness, a distinct form of personal existence. Yet, they all share the exact same divine nature/essence. We are planning to go into much more detail on the Doctrine of the Trinity in a future lesson.

**Key Concept:** Jesus is not only “Divine,” He is a member of the Trinity and has existed eternally as God. Although, He took on a human nature at His incarnation, He did not come into existence in the incarnation.

**Incarnation of the Son of Man: Jesus is Human**

Another major Tenet that must be fully believed in the Christian faith is the doctrine of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. This one doctrine is so important and so powerful, that even demons cannot make this confession out to anyone when they are being properly tested by a believer. 1 John 4:1-4 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, BUT TEST THE SPIRITS, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

The Incarnation is the belief that Jesus Christ, who is both God and Lord Himself in the Divine Trinity, became fully man and came down to our earth in the flesh so He could then go to the cross to die for all our sins. Jesus Christ was thus fully man and fully God when He was down here walking in the flesh for 33.5 years.

A critical part of the doctrine of the Incarnation is also the belief that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit but was actually born into this world through the virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit thus conceived and brought Jesus into Mary’s womb supernaturally. Jesus was not conceived in Mary’s womb by natural means through Joseph. He was conceived in her womb supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. And from there, Jesus went through the normal birthing process with Mary to come into our world. Since Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Divine Trinity, we are talking about God Himself coming down to our earth in a human flesh body, but yet still retaining His full divinity within that human flesh body.

This basic fundamental tenet is what completely separates us from the rest of the other false religions that are in the world today. None of them will ever confess or admit that Jesus Christ is both God and Lord Himself. They will say that He was a great man and a great prophet, but they will never admit or confess that He is also God Almighty Himself. As such, we can never, ever lose this powerful tenet as part of our basic belief system in the Lord. Take away the incarnation of Jesus Christ and Christianity will completely fall apart.

Equally amazing to the doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of the Incarnation — that Jesus Christ is God and man, yet one person, forever. As J.I. Packer has said, “Here are two mysteries for the price of one; the plurality of persons within the unity of God, and the union of Godhead and manhood in the person of Jesus.” The early church considered the Incarnation to be one of the most important truths of our faith. Because of this, they formulated what has come to be called the Chalcedonian Creed, a statement which sets forth what we are to believe and what we are not to believe about the Incarnation.

The Chalcedonian creed was the fruit of a large council that took place from October 8 to November 1, 451, in the city of Chalcedon and has been taken as the standard, orthodox definition of the biblical teaching on the person of Christ since that day by all the major branches of Christianity.

There are five main truths with which the creed of Chalcedon summarized the biblical teaching on the Incarnation:

1. Jesus has two natures: He is God and man.

2. Each nature is full and complete: He is fully God and fully man.

3. Each nature remains distinct.

4. Christ is only one Person.

5. Things that are true of only one nature are nonetheless true of the Person of Christ.

A proper understanding of these truths clears up much confusion and many difficulties we may have in our mind and that has been a struggle for Christians to clarify since the inception of the Church. How can Jesus be both God and man? Why doesn’t this make him two people? How does His Incarnation relate to Trinity? How could Jesus have hungered (Matthew 4:2) and died (Mark 15:37) when he was on earth, and yet still be God? Did Jesus give up any of his divine attributes in the Incarnation? Why is it inaccurate to say that Jesus is a part of God? Is Jesus still human now, and does he still have his human body? (We will look at these questions and how they have been handled in the sedition on heresy)

**Virgin Birth**

Matt. 1:18 - “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit.” Matt. 1:20 - “Shortly after that an angel of the Lord said to Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

**Three Reason for the importance of the Virgin Birth:**

1. It shows the salvation ultimately must come from the Lord. Just as God had promised that the “seed” of the woman (Gen 3:15) would ultimately destroy the serpent, so God brought it about by his own power, not through mere human effort. The virgin birth of Christ is an unmistakable reminder that salvation can never come through human effort, but must be the work of God Himself. Our salvation only comes about through the supernatural work of God, and that has been evident since the very beginning of Jesus’ life.
2. The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person. This was the means God used to send His Son (John 3:16, Gal. 4:4) into the world as a man. God, in His infinite Wisdom, ordained a combination of human and divine influence in the birth of Christ, so that His full humanity would be evident to us from the fact of His ordinary human birth from a human mother, and his full deity would be evident from the fact of His conception in Mary’s womb by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.
3. The virgin birth makes possible Christ’s true humanity without inherited sin. Luke 1:35 - “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” This scripture connects the conception by the Holy Spirit with the holiness or moral purity of Christ, and reflection on that fact allows us to understand that through the absence of a human father, Jesus was not full descended from Adam, and that this break in the line of descent was the method God used to bring it about that Jesus was fully human yet did not share inherited sin from Adam.

**Jesus Had a Human Body**

The fact that Jesus had a human body just like our human bodies is seen in many passages of Scripture. He was born just as all human babies are born (Luke 2:7). He grew through childhood to adulthood just as other children grow: Luke 2:40 - “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” Luke also tells us that “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). As fully human, Jesus became tired (John 4:6), thirsty (John 19:28), hungry (Matt. 4:2), physically weak (Matt. 4:11), weak (Luke 23:26) and eventually succumbed to death on the cross (Luke 23:46).

Even after His resurrection Jesus repeatedly demonstrated to His disciples that He had a real physical body: He says, “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39). Another evidence of this fact is that “they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them” (Luke 24:42; John 20:17, 20, 27; 21:9, 13). In this same human body (though a resurrection body made perfect), Jesus also ascended into heaven. He said before He left, “I am leaving the world and going to the Father” (John 16:28; 17:11). The way in which Jesus ascended up to heaven was calculated to demonstrate the continuity between His existence in a physical body here on earth and His continuing existence in that body in heaven (Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9). All of these verses taken together show that Jesus’ human body was like ours in every respect before His resurrection, and after His resurrection it was still a human body with “flesh and bones,” but made perfect, the kind of body that we will have when Christ returns and we are raised from the dead or meet him in the clouds upon His return.

**Jesus Had a Human Mind, Emotions and Soul**

Luke 2:52 - Jesus “increased in wisdom…” Mark 13:32 - “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only they Father.” John 12:27 - “Now is my soul troubled.” John 13:21 - “When Jesus had thus spoken, he was troubled in spirit.” Matt. 26:38 - “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death.” Jesus had a full range of human emotions. He “marveled” at the faith of the centurion (Matt. 8:10); He wept with sorrow at the death of Lazarus (John 11:35); and He prayed with a heart full of emotion, for “in the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard for His godly fear” (Heb. 5:7).

**Sinlessness**

Although Jesus was fully human, He was the spotless Lamb of God, the only sinless human to ever walk the earth. Jesus is the second Adam, 1 Cor. 15:45-47 - “Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.” The New Testament teaches us in many places of the sinlessness of Jesus, especially in the book of John. John 8:12 - “I am the light of the world.” Light represents truthfulness and moral purity and Jesus is claiming to be the source of truth and the source of moral purity and holiness in the world. John 8:29 - “I am always doing what is pleasing to the Father.” John 15:10 - “I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” John 18:38 - Pilot states, “I find no crime in him.” Jesus' sinlessness is also shown His overcoming the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. Jesus did not succumb to the easy path and way out of suffering that Satan was offering him.

Why Was Jesus’ Full Humanity Necessary? As John states in no uncertain terms in 1 John 4:2-3 - “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist.” The apostle John understood that to deny Jesus’ true humanity was to deny something at the very heart of Christianity, so that no one who denied that Jesus had come in the flesh was sent from God. Jesus had to be fully man if he was going to be the Messiah and earn our salvation. There are seven reasons why Jesus had to be fully man:

1. **For Representative Obedience.** Romans 5:18 - 19 - “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.”
2. **To Be a Substitute Sacrifice (Penal Substitution or Vicarious Atonement).** If Jesus had not been a man, he could not have died in our place and paid the penalty that was due to us. Hebrews 2:16-17 - “For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
3. **To Be the One Mediator Between God and Men.** Because we were alienated from God by sin, we need someone to come between God and ourselves and bring us back to Him. We needed a Mediator who could represent us to God and who could represent God to us. There is only one person who has ever fulfilled that requirement: 1 Tim. 2:5 - “There is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” In order to fulfill this role as Mediator, Jesus had to be fully man and fully God as well.
4. **To Fulfill God’s Original Purpose for Man to Rule Over Creation.** God put mankind on the earth to subdue it and rule over it as God’s representatives. But man did not fulfill that purpose, for he instead fell into sin. When Jesus came as a man, He was able to obey God and thereby have the right to rule over creation as a man, thus fulfilling God’s original purpose in putting man on the earth. Indeed, we shall SOMEDAY reign with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21) and experience, in subjection to Christ our Lord, the fulfillment of God’s purpose that we reign over the earth (Luke 19:17, 19; 1 Cor. 6:3). Jesus had to be a man in order to fulfill God’s original purpose that man rule over His creation.
5. **To Be Our Example and Pattern in Life.** John tells us in 1 John 2:6, “He who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked,” and reminds us that “when He appears we shall be like Him,” and that “this hope of future conformity to Christ’s character even now gives increasing moral purity to our lives” (2 Cor. 3:18), moving us toward the goal for which God saves us, that we might “be conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29). Throughout our Christian life, we are to run the race set before us “looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrew 12:2). Our goal should be to be like Christ all of our days, up to the point of death, and to die with unfailing obedience to God, with strong trust in Him, and with love and forgiveness to others. Jesus had to become a man like us in order to live as our example and pattern in life. WWJD!?
6. **To Be the Pattern for Our Redeemed Bodies.** Paul tells us that when Jesus rose from the dead He rose in a new body that was “imperishable… raised in glory… raised in power…. raised a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:42-44). This new resurrection body that Jesus had when He rose from the dead is the pattern for what our bodies will be like when we are raised from the dead, because Christ is “the first fruits” (1 Cor. 15:23). We now have a physical body like Adam’s, but we will have one like Christ’s: “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (1 Cor. 15:49). Jesus had to be raised as a man in order to be the “first-born from the dead” (Col. 1:18), the pattern for the bodies that we would later have.
7. **To Sympathize As High Priest.** The author of Hebrews reminds us that “because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted” (Heb. 2:18; 4:15-16). If Jesus had not been a man, He would not have been able to know by experience what we go through in our temptations and struggles in this life. But because He has lived as a man, He is able to sympathize more fully with us in our experiences. (Source: Grudem, Wayne)

**God and Man: Jesus’ Dual Nature**

Theologically, the doctrine that in Jesus of Nazareth God took on human flesh and became the Godman. The incarnation was the act of God the Son whereby He took to Himself a human nature. Doctrine that affirms Jesus Christ is the earthly manifestation in the flesh of the divine Logos, and that as a corollary, He is fully God and fully man.

God becoming human, the union of divinity and humanity in Jesus of Nazareth. To think that God the Father would allow His one and only Son Jesus, who is both God and Lord Himself and the second Person of the Divine Trinity, to incarnate into a human, flesh body so He could then become fully Man, but yet still retain His full divinity in the Triune Godhead, is enough to knock you right off your feet when you try and meditate on this extreme reality.

**Jesus has two natures: God and man.**

Two natures of Christ, in Christianity, the doctrine stating that Jesus, through the Incarnation, became fully human and fully divine and that these natures cannot be separated. The idea that Jesus Christ is true God and true man is also referred to as the hypostatic union. The Christian doctrine of salvation depends on the belief that Christ had to become fully human to share his full divinity with humanity.

The first truth we need to understand is that Jesus is one Person who has two natures: a divine nature and a human nature. In other words, Jesus is both God and man. We will look at each nature accordingly. We have seen the biblical evidence for the fact that Christ is God the Son, that he has both a divine and human nature, that each nature is full and complete, that each nature remains distinct, that Christ is nonetheless one Person, and that things which are true of one nature are true of the Person.

First, the relevance of these truths to us should go without saying, for they go to the very heart of who Christ is. Knowing these truths will greatly affect the way you view Christ and will make the gospel accounts of his life come more alive. This understanding will deepen our devotion to Christ.

Second, having this richer understanding of the incarnation of God the Son should greatly enhance our worship. We will have great marvel and gladness at the fact that the eternal Person of God the Son became man forever. Our recognition of Christ’s worth will be heightened. And our faith in Him will be strengthened by having this deeper understanding of who He is. The union of Christ’s deity and humanity in one Person makes it such that we have all that we need in the same Savior. How glorious!

**Jesus is God!**

• Because Jesus is God, He is all-powerful, and He cannot be defeated

• Because He is God, He is the only adequate Savior

• Because He is God, believers are safe and can never perish; we have security

• Because He is God, we can have confidence that He will empower us for the task that He commands us for

• Because He is God, all people will be accountable to Him when He returns to judge the world

**Jesus is Man!**

• Because Jesus is man, He has experienced the same things that we do

• Because He is man, He can identify with us more intimately

• Because He is man, He can come to our aid as our sympathetic High Priest when we reach the limits of our human weaknesses

• Because He is man, we can relate to Him, He is not far off and uninvolved.

• Because He is man, we cannot complain that God does not know what we are going through, He experienced it firsthand.

*We need to be ready to defend the truth of Jesus’s deity, Jesus’s humanity, and their joining Supernaturally in one Person.*

Jesus is both God and man, the second truth that we must recognize is that each of Christ’s natures is full and complete. In other words, Jesus is fully God and fully man. Another helpful way to say it is that Jesus is 100% God and 100% man.

**Jesus Is Fully God**

We reviewed that each Person of the Trinity is fully God. The three Persons of the Trinity are not each one-third of God but are each all of God. Jesus is fully God since He is God the Son incarnate. Which means that everything that is essential to being God is true of Jesus. Jesus is not part of God or one-third of God. Rather, he is fully God. Colossians 2:9 - “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

**Jesus’s Human Nature is Human, and Human Only**

His divine nature is divine, and divine only. Jesus’s human nature did not become all-knowing through its union with God the Son, and neither did his divine nature become ignorant of anything. If any of the natures underwent a change in its essential nature, then Christ is no longer truly and fully human, or truly and fully divine.

**Jesus Will Be Fully God and Fully Man Forever**

For most people it is obvious that Jesus will be God forever. But for some reason it escapes a lot of us that Jesus will also be man forever. He is still a man right now as you read this and will be forever. The Bible is clear that Jesus rose physically from the dead in the same body that had died Luke 24:39 and then ascended into heaven as a man in his physical body (Acts 1:9; Luke 24:50–51). It would make no sense for Him to have done this if He was simply going to ditch His body and stop being man when he arrived in heaven. That Christ continued being man with a physical body after His ascension is confirmed by the fact that when He returns, it will be as a man in His body. He will return physically. Philippians 3:21 says that at his second coming, Christ will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory.

This verse is clear that Jesus still has His body. It is a glorified body, which Paul calls, the body of His glory. And when Christ returns, He will still have it because this verse says that He will transform our bodies to be like His. Both Jesus and all Christians will then continue living together in their bodies forever, because the resurrection body cannot die, 1 Corinthians 15:42 since it is eternal, 2 Corinthians 5:1.

**Why did Jesus Become Man, and Why Will He Be Man Forever?**

The book of Hebrews says it was so that Christ could be an adequate Savior who has all that we need. Hebrews 2:17 - “He had to be made like His brothers in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” First, notice that Jesus became man so that he could die for our sins. He had to be human in order to pay the penalty for humans. Second, this verse says that because Jesus is human like us, He is able to be a merciful and faithful High Priest. His humanity enables him to more fully sympathize with us and identify with us.

Man cannot help but believe that it is very destructive to our comfort and faith to not know that Jesus is still man and in His body. For if He is not still man in heaven, how could we have comfort knowing that He can fully sympathize with us? He can sympathize and be a faithful High Priest and know what we are going through not just because He was once on earth as a man, but because He continues forever as that same man.

**Each Nature Remains Distinct**

The truths of Christ’s two natures: His full manhood and full Godhood. We need the right understanding of the incarnation; we must go even further. We must understand that the two natures of Christ remain distinct and retain their own properties. What does this truth mean? Two things:

1) They do not alter one another’s essential properties and

2) Neither do they mix together into a mysterious third kind of nature.

It would be wrong to think that Christ’s two natures mix together to form a third kind of nature. This is one of the heresies that the early church had to fight. This heresy taught that the human nature of Christ was taken up and absorbed into the divine nature, so that both natures were changed somewhat, and a third kind of nature resulted.

An analogy can be seen if we put a drop of ink in a glass of water: the mixture resulting is neither pure ink nor pure water, but some kind of third substance, a mixture of the two in which both the ink and the water are changed. Similarly, this view taught that Jesus was a mixture of divine and human elements in which both were somewhat modified to form one new nature. This view is unbiblical because it demolishes both Christ’s deity and humanity. For if Christ’s two natures mixed together, then He is no longer truly and fully God and truly and fully man but is some entirely different kind of being that resulted from a mixture of the two natures.

Second, even if we acknowledge that the natures do not mix together into a third kind of nature, it would also be wrong to think that the two natures changed one another. It would be wrong to conclude that Jesus’s human nature became divine in some ways or that His divine nature became human in some ways. Rather, each nature remains distinct and thereby retains its own individual properties and does not change.

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| **GOD** | **MAN** |
| He is worshiped ([Matt. 2:2](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%202.2), [11](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%202.11); [14:33](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%2014.33)) | He worshiped the Father (John 17) |
| He was called God ([John 20:28](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2020.28); [Heb. 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Heb.%201.8)) | He was called man ([Mark 15:39](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Mark%2015.39); [John 19:5](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2019.5)) |
| He was called Son of God ([Mark 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Mark%201.1)) | He was called Son of Man ([John 9:35-37](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%209.35-37)) |
| He is prayed to ([Acts 7:59](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Acts%207.59)) | He prayed to the Father (John 17) |
| He is sinless ([1 Pet. 2:22](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Pet.%202.22); [Heb. 4:15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Heb.%204.15)) | He was tempted ([Matt. 4:1](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%204.1)) |
| He knows all things ([John 21:17](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2021.17)) | He grew in wisdom ([Luke 2:52](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%202.52)) |
| He gives eternal life ([John 10:28](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2010.28)) | He died ([Rom. 5:8](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom.%205.8)) |
| All the fullness of deity dwells in Him ([Col. 2:9](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Col.%202.9)) | He has a body of flesh and bones ([Luke 24:39](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%2024.39)) |

2. **Taught in the Old Testament**

Gen 16:13 - “Therefore, she called upon the name of the Lord who was speaking to her, you are the mighty God of vision or doctrine, or revelation, Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?” Notice that it says that she remained alive after seeing Him or seeing God. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the only Person of the Trinity to ever be seen, as taught in such passages as John 1:18; John 6:46; Titus 6:16; 1 John 4:12. John 1:18 - “No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father.” In Genesis 16:13 Hagar sees the second person of the Trinity, The Lord Jesus Christ. John 5:37 - “And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.” John 6:46 - “Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.”

One of the most striking passages regarding Jesus in the Old Testament is Psalm 22, which goes into great detail regarding the crucifixion: v1 “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?...” v6 - 8 “but I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people, all who see me mock me; they smack their lip, they wag their head, saying, ‘Commit yourself to Yahweh; let Him rescue him; let Him deliver him, because He delights in him.’ … v.11 - 18 “Be not far from me, for distress is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me, as a lion that tears and roars. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**Prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament (Gary)**

Luke 24:25-27 - “Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

**47 Old Testament Prophecies Regarding the Messiah, Jesus Christ:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Prophecy** | **Old Testament Scripture** | **New Testament Fulfillment** |
| 1 | Messiah would be born of a woman. | Genesis 3:15 | Matt. 1:20 Gal. 4:4 |
| 2 | Messiah would be born in [Bethlehem](https://www.learnreligions.com/city-of-bethlehem-overview-700678). | Micah 5:2 | Matt. 2:1 Luke 2:4-6 |
| 3 | Messiah would be [born of a virgin](https://www.learnreligions.com/who-is-the-virgin-mary-124539). | Isaiah 7:14 | Matt. 1:22-23,Lk 1:26-31 |
| 4 | Messiah would come from the line of [Abraham](https://www.learnreligions.com/abraham-father-of-jewish-nation-701196). | Genesis 12:3; 22:18 | Matt. 1:1 Rom. 9:5 |
| 5 | Messiah would be a descendant of [Isaac](https://www.learnreligions.com/isaac-son-of-abraham-701154). | Genesis 17:19; 21:12 | Luke 3:34 |
| 6 | Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob. | Numbers 24:17 | Matthew 1:2 |
| 7 | Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. | Genesis 49:10 | Luke 3:33, Heb. 7:14 |
| 8 | Messiah would be heir to [King David's throne](https://www.learnreligions.com/king-david-leader-of-ancient-israel-2076644). | 2 Sam 7:12-13, Is. 9:7 | Lk 1:32-33, Rom 1:3 |
| 9 | Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal. | Ps. 45:6-7 Daniel 2:44 | Lk 1:33, Heb. 1:8-12 |
| 10 | Messiah would be called [Immanuel](https://www.learnreligions.com/what-does-immanuel-mean-700741). | Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:23 |
| 11 | Messiah would spend a season in Egypt. | Hosea 11:1 | Matthew 2:14-15 |
| 12 | A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace. | Jeremiah 31:15 | Matthew 2:16-18 |
| 13 | A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah. | Isaiah 40:3-5 | Luke 3:3-6 |
| 14 | Messiah would be preceded by a forerunner. | Malachi 3:1 | Matthew 11:10 |
| 15 | Messiah would be rejected by his own people. | Psalm 69:8 Isaiah 53:3 | John 1:11 John 7:5 |
| 16 | Messiah would be a prophet. | Deuteronomy 18:15 | Acts 3:20-22 |
| 17 | Messiah would be preceded by [Elijah](https://www.learnreligions.com/elijah-boldest-of-the-prophets-701160). | Malachi 4:5-6 | Matthew 11:13-14 |
| 18 | Messiah would be declared the [Son of God](https://www.learnreligions.com/origin-of-the-son-of-god-700710). | Psalm 2:7 | Matthew 3:16-17 |
| 19 | Messiah would be called a Nazarene. | Isaiah 11:1 | Matthew 2:23 |
| 20 | Messiah would bring light to [Galilee](https://www.learnreligions.com/profile-of-the-region-of-galilee-248850). | Isaiah 9:1-2 | Matthew 4:13-16 |
| 21 | Messiah would speak in [parables](https://www.learnreligions.com/what-is-a-parable-700744). | Ps.78:2-4, Is. 6:9-10 | Matt. 13:10-15, 34-35 |
| 22 | Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted. | Isaiah 61:1-2 | Luke 4:18-19 |
| 23 | Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek. | Psalm 110:4 | Hebrews 5:5-6 |
| 24 | Messiah would be called King. | Psalm 2:6 Zechariah 9:9 | Matt. 27:37, Mk. 11:7-11 |
| 25 | Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey. | Zechariah 11:12 | Matthew 21:4-5 |
| 26 | Messiah would be praised by little children. | Psalm 8:2 | Matthew 21:16 |
| 27 | Messiah would be betrayed. | Ps. 41:9, Zech 11:12-13 | Lk 22:47-48, Matt. 26:14-16 |
| 28 | Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field. | Zechariah 11:12-13 | Matthew 27:9-10 |
| 29 | Messiah would be falsely accused. | Psalm 35:11 | Mark 14:57-58 |
| 30 | Messiah would be silent before his accusers. | Isaiah 53:7 | Mark 15:4-5 |
| 31 | Messiah would be spat upon and struck. | Isaiah 50:6 | Matthew 26:67 |
| 32 | Messiah would be hated without cause. | Psalm 35:19 Psalm 69:4 | John 15:24-25 |
| 33 | Messiah would be [crucified](https://www.learnreligions.com/crucifixion-of-jesus-christ-700210) with criminals. | Isaiah 53:12 | Matt. 27:38, Mark 15:27-28 |
| 34 | Messiah would be given vinegar to drink. | Psalm 69:21 | Matt. 27:34, John 19:28-30 |
| 35 | Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. | Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10 | John 20:25-27 |
| 36 | Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed. | Psalm 22:7-8 | Luke 23:35 |
| 37 | Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments. | Psalm 22:18 | Lk 23:34, Matt. 27:35-36 |
| 38 | Messiah's bones would not be broken. | Ex. 12:46, Ps 34:20 | John 19:33-36 |
| 39 | Messiah would be forsaken by God. | Psalm 22:1 | Matthew 27:46 |
| 40 | Messiah would pray for his enemies. | Psalm 109:4 | Luke 23:34 |
| 41 | Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side. | Zechariah 12:10 | John 19:34 |
| 42 | Messiah would be buried with the rich. | Isaiah 53:9 | Matthew 27:57-60 |
| 43 | Messiah would [resurrect from the dead](https://www.learnreligions.com/when-did-christ-rise-542086). | Ps. 16:10; 49:15 | Matt. 28:2-7 Acts 2:22-32 |
| 44 | Messiah would [ascend to heaven](https://www.learnreligions.com/ascension-of-jesus-700194). | Psalm 24:7-10 | Mk 16:19, Lk 24:51 |
| 45 | Messiah would be seated at God's right hand. | Ps. 68:18; 110:1 | Mk 16:19, Matt 22:44 |
| 46 | Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin. | Isaiah 53:5-12 | Romans 5:6-8 |
| 47 | Messiah would return a second time.  | Daniel 7:13-14 | Revelation 19 |

Source: (https://www.learnreligions.com/prophecies-of-jesus-fulfilled-700159)

3. **Taught in the New Testament (John)**

The Lord Jesus Christ could look at a crowd of people who were angry at His claims of sharing God's nature and tell them that no one has lived a sinless life, except for Himself. John 8:28-29 - “Jesus said when you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. John 8:46-47 - “Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

The Lord Jesus Christ claimed to be the ONLY way to God, not one of several ways, but the one and only way! John 14:6. The Lord Jesus Christ claimed not to teach the way, but to BE the way to God. Nobody has ever made claims like that before and backed them up, but The Lord Jesus Christ did through His love, life, miracles, and power and fulfillment of prophecy.

The apostle John wrote that The Lord Jesus Christ was with God in the very beginning, and that all things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. John 17:5 - “He prayed, And now, glorify Thou me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.” He also claimed to be able to forgive sins. Luke 5:20-21 - “And when He saw their faith, he said, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’” This is one of the reasons that the Jewish leaders were so angry with Him, His continual practice of forgiving people's sins. The religious leaders understood clearly that since sins were rebellion against God Himself, and only God could forgive sins.

Jesus was indeed making himself equal with God as we read in the Gospels. Here is the point, unless a person believes that Jesus Christ is Lord and God, they cannot be saved. That is why this doctrine is so important to understand! Matthew 1:23- “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us.”

John 1:1-4 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

4. **Heretical Counterfeits (impact of false doctrine, what truths it changes; how it affects the Gospel, sources of the counterfeits) (John)**

Matt. 16:13 - Who do men say that I am? Every early heresy was an attack on the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Lord claimed to be equal with God. 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.” Some say that Jesus Christ never claimed to be God, this is not true. At the time of his trial, Jesus was asked by the high priest about His Messiahship. Mark 14:60-64 - “And the high priest stood up {and came} forward and questioned Jesus, saying, Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You? But He kept silent and made no answer. Again, the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One And Jesus said, I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven. And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard blasphemy; how does it seem to you? And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.”

Many scriptures prove that The Lord Jesus Christ is God. Isaiah 45:22-23 - “Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.” Phil 2.10 - “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” 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 Kenosis Theory: Did Jesus Give Up Some of His Divine Attributes While on Earth?** This is potentially the most dangerous heresy of all! Taken from the scripture Phil 2:5-7 - “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but *emptied himself*, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” Taking the phrase “emptied himself” the Kenosis Theory holds that Christ gave up some of His divine attributes while He was on earth as a man. The word kenosis is taken from the Greek verb *kenoō*, which generally means “to empty,” and is translated “emptied himself” in Phil 2:7. According to this theory Christ “emptied Himself” of some of His divine attributes, such as omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotent, while He was on earth as a man. This was viewed as a voluntary self-limitation on Christ’s part, which He carried out in order to fulfill His work of redemption.

Is this what Phil. 2:7 really teaches? We must first realize that no recognized teacher in the first 1800 years of church history, including those who were native speakers in Greek, thought that “emptied Himself” in Phil. 2:7 meant that the Son of God gave up some of His divine attributes. Second, we must recognize the text does not say that Christ “emptied Himself of some powers” or “emptied Himself of divine attributes” or anything like that. Third, the text does describe what Jesus did in this “emptying”: He did not do it by giving up any of His attributes but rather by “taking the form of a servant,” that is, by coming to live as a man, and being “found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.” Thus, the text itself interprets this “emptying” as equivalent to “humbling Himself” and taking on a lowly status and position. The emptying includes changing of role and status, not essential attributes or nature! Furthermore, if it were true such a momentous event as this happened, that the eternal Son of God ceased for a time to have all the attributes of God - ceased, for a time to be omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent - then we would expect that such an incredible event would be taught clearly and repeatedly in the New Testament, not found in the very doubtful interpretations of one verse. Yet it is not stated anywhere that the Son of God ceased to have some of the attributes of God that He had possessed from eternity. In fact, if the Kenosis Theory were true we could no longer affirm Jesus was fully God while He was here on earth. The Kenosis Theory ultimately denies the full deity of Jesus Christ and makes Him something less than fully God. (Source: Grudem, Wayne)

It is important to realize that the major force persuading people to accept Kenotic Theory was not that they had discovered a better understanding of Phil. 2:7 or any other passage of the New Testament, but rather the increasing discomfort people were feeling with the formulations of the doctrine of Christ in historic, classical orthodoxy. It just seemed too incredible for modern rational and “scientific” people to believe that Jesus Christ could be truly human and fully, absolutely God at the same time. In the words of a modern very popular “preacher” leading people astray with his heretical interpretation of the Deity of Christ: “Jesus made this very scary statement. He said the Son of Man can do nothing of himself. Do you know that Jesus so restricted his function on earth that he couldn’t actually heal anyone, that he couldn’t multiply food, he couldn’t cast out devils, he couldn’t do any of that stuff because he restricted himself to the life of a human being that would have to be dependent on the Father through the Holy Spirit. If he did miracles as God, I am still impressed but I am reduced to an observer.” That should be very sobering considering there are literally millions of people hanging on this man’s words and following his teaching.

**Modalism,** also known as Sabellianism or modalistic monarchianism, is a theological concept that emerged in the early Christian church. It is considered a heresy by mainstream Christian denominations because it represents a non-traditional and problematic understanding of the nature of the Trinity. Modalism denies the distinct and simultaneous existence of three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in the Godhead. Instead, it proposes that these three are different modes or manifestations of the same divine essence. In other words, according to Modalism, God is not three distinct persons but rather one person who reveals Himself in different ways at different times.

This view is problematic from a traditional Christian perspective because it compromises the essential doctrine of the Trinity, which affirms the coexistence of three distinct persons within the one God. The orthodox Christian understanding of the Trinity maintains that the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit are eternally and simultaneously distinct persons sharing the same divine essence.

Modalism was considered a heresy by early church theologians, as it undermined the orthodox understanding of the Trinity and raised concerns about the nature of God's relationships within Himself. The Nicene Creed, formulated in the 4th century, was a response to various theological challenges, including Modalism, and it articulates the orthodox Christian belief in the Trinity as three distinct persons in one God.

In summary, Modalism is considered a heresy because it deviates from the orthodox Christian understanding of the Trinity, asserting that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not simultaneously distinct persons but different manifestations of the same divine essence. This view was rejected by the early church as incompatible with the core tenets of Christian theology.

**Gnosticism:** Gnosticism encompassed diverse sects, but generally, Gnostics believed in an unknowable, transcendent God and a series of divine emanations. They considered the material world the creation of a lesser, often malevolent deity. Secret knowledge, or gnosis, was seen as the key to liberation from this material existence.

**Docetism:** Docetists, influenced by Platonic thought, believed that the divine was incompatible with the material. They argued that Jesus only appeared to have a physical body, as a true union of divinity and humanity was deemed impossible. This view challenged the authenticity of Jesus' suffering and death.

**Arianism:** Arianism posited that Jesus, while the highest created being, was not fully divine. According to Arius, there was a time when Jesus did not exist. The Nicene Creed refuted this by asserting the eternal divinity of Jesus, emphasizing his consubstantiality (participation in the same nature) with the Father.

**Donatism:** Originating in the aftermath of the Diocletianic Persecution, Donatism held that the sacraments administered by lapsed clergy were invalid. They insisted on a pure, unblemished church. The church, however, maintained that the efficacy of sacraments was not dependent on the moral standing of the clergy.

**Nestorianism:** Nestorians, led by Nestorius, drew a sharp distinction between Jesus' divine and human natures, practically treating them as separate persons. The Council of Ephesus affirmed the unity of Christ's person, declaring Mary as Theotokos (God-bearer) to underscore the inseparability of his natures.

**Monophysitism:** Monophysites, including followers of Eutyches, believed that Jesus' divine nature fully absorbed his human nature, creating a single, unified nature. The Council of Chalcedon responded by articulating the Chalcedonian Definition, asserting that Jesus had two distinct natures in perfect union without confusion or change.

6. **Application Today (why it matters so much where it puts Jesus, the body of believers, Israel, truth, etc.) (John & Gary)**

The deity of Christ is important to understand because one thing that other religions such as the Buddhists, Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, Moonies, the Way international, Jehovah's witnesses, Christian scientists, Scientology, the New Age movement all have in common is that they all deny the deity of Jesus Christ or the fact that Jesus is Lord, or that Jesus is Jehovah and God. However, what does the Bible say? 1 John 2:23 - “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.” John 5:21-23 - “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

In the Old Testament, He appeared as the angel of the Lord or the angel of Jehovah. And there are passages where The Lord Jesus Christ is not only called the angel of Jehovah but at the same time, He is also called Jehovah, Genesis 22:11-18, Genesis 31:11-13, Exodus 3:1-6, Acts 7:31-35, Exodus 13:21; Exodus 14:19, Judge 6:11-23, 13:9-22. In all of these passages you will find The Lord Jesus Christ mentioned in context as the Angel of Jehovah. There is also something else that is very interesting, the Angel of Jehovah is also distinguished from Jehovah. Because the Angel of Jehovah is always Jesus Christ. There are times that Jehovah can refer to God the Father, God the Son, or God the Spirit.

What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He? Remember that The Lord Jesus Christ said I am He! He said I am He in John 8:18; Deut. 32:39; Isiah 41:4; 43:10; 43:13; 48:12; Jer. 29:23; John 8:18; 8:24; 8:28; 13:19; 18:6; 18:8; Revelation 2:23.

**7. Supporting Scripture and references**

The privileged first born in Colossians 1:15 refers to the humanity of Christ. The humanity of Christ was born as taught in Isaiah. Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” This was of course fulfilled in Matthew 1:20-23. However, the deity of Christ always existed as taught in John. John 1:2 - “He was in the beginning with God.” Colossians 1:15 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.” Note that Jesus Christ was not created but He is the first-born of every creature. This means Christ was the first born with reference to all created beings, that's the way Colossians1:15 should be translated. In other words, the passage doesn't say He is the firstborn among creatures but the firstborn with reference to all creation or creatures. Colossians 1:15 - “And He [Jesus Christ] keeps on being the exact image of the invisible God, the privileged first-born with reference to all creation.”

1 Peter 1:1-2 is one of at least three verses of scripture where the deity of Christ is presented as a syllogism. Syllogism - an instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn (whether validly or not) from two given or assumed propositions (premises), each of which shares a term with the conclusion, and shares a common or middle term not present in the conclusion. 1 Peter 1:1-2 - “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure. Notice we have God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit all mentioned in this verse.

We have the omniscience of God the Father mentioned by the word foreknowledge and we have the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit sanctifying the believer. Then we have obedience to The Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Colossians 13:14, Matthew 28:19 Isaiah 48:16 is also a syllogism.

Isaiah 48:16 - “Come near to Me; listen to this. From the first, I have not spoken in secret. From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God [God the Father] has sent Me [God the Son], and His Spirit [God the Holy Spirit].” The word Elohim is in the plural and as a plural word translated God in the Old Testament, it refers to the entire Trinity, it is used in Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3:22. Genesis 1:26 - “Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” Genesis 3:22 - “Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.” Whenever one or more persons are going to be mentioned we have the word Jehovah. It is used for God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit. However, it is only the Son who is the Angel of Jehovah.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only visible member of the Trinity.

Jesus Christ is the only manifest person of the Godhead, but He is still God. He is the only person of the Godhead who is manifest to man or to creatures in the form of a creature or in some other form like the burning bush or the pillar of fire at night or the cloud by day.

Jesus Christ was the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament but since He's also Jehovah, the passage will say somewhere in it that Jehovah said indicating that the Angel of Jehovah is Jehovah, and that Jehovah is also the Angel of Jehovah. The Angel of Jehovah is a Theophany and Jehovah is God.

So obviously when some other member of the Godhead is involved in the passage where the angel of Jehovah is functioning it will say Jehovah said to the angel of Jehovah, because the Father is Jehovah too.

Genesis 24:7 - “The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, To your descendants I will give this land, He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.” Genesis 24:40 - “And he said to me, The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives, and from my father's house.” Note that in these passages, the Angel of Jehovah is distinguished from Jehovah and another principle emerges which is the fact that the Angel of Jehovah is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus Christ is always said to be the visible God. The only member of the Trinity who is ever visible is Jesus Christ, again that's John 1:18; John 6:46, 1 Timothy 6:15-16, 1 John 4:12, and after the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Angel of Jehovah never appears again.

So back to our main verse and our corrected translation says Genesis 16:13 - “Therefore, she [Hagar] called upon the name of the Lord who was speaking to her, you are the mighty God of vision or doctrine, or revelation, Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?” The point that is so important is that Hagar recognized that God was talking to her. The most important question that anyone needs to answer is found in Matthew 22:42. The Lord Jesus Christ claimed to be a Heavenly King, Luke 22:69 and He claimed to be the King of the Jews, Luke 23:3. He also claimed to be the Son of God and the King of Israel, John 1:49. For example, Micah 5:2 says Jesus Christ is eternal God during the incarnation. Micah 5:2 - “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity. This was fulfilled by our Lord. Matthew 2:5-6 - “And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler, Who will shepherd My people Israel. Notice the phrase in Micah 5:2, His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity. This same Hebrew word for eternity Olam is used to affirm the eternal existence of the Father in many passages, Gen 21:33. Psalm 41:13; 90:2; 103:17; Isaiah 40:28. So what this proves for the Father, it also proves for the Son. He was beginning to teach that the unity of God involved a true uniting of three persons in the Godhead or in the divine nature; and he was claiming to be one of them.

Colossians 2:9 - “In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.” The Bible clearly teaches the deity of Jesus Christ. God is omnipotent (all powerful) according to the Scriptures, 1 Chron 29:11. Philippians 3:21 - “Jesus Christ is all powerful, He exerts the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” Genesis 2:3 - “God is the Lord of the Sabbath.” Matthew 12:8 - “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” Jehovah will judge mankind in Isaiah 3:13 - “The Lord arises to contend and stands to judge the people.” 2 Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” 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.” Revelation 1:17 - “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.’” 1 Chronicles 29:11 - “Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth.” Matthew 28:18 - “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 - “And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” Matthew 9:6 - “But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins? then He said to the paralytic- Rise, take up your bed, and go home.” Matthew 16:16-17 - “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal {this} to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” John 1:9-10 - “There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”

John 1:1 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:14 - “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” 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.”

John 5:21-23 - “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” John 10:30 - “I and the Father are one.”

Whoever is the true God is also eternal life. Therefore, if we identify the one who is eternal life, we also identify the true God. The most obvious preincarnate work is the fact that The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of the universe, John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10. John 1:3 - “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” He had to be God to preexist all other creatures. We have a lot of Biblical documentation of His preincarnate person. John 1:14-15, John 3:13, John 8:23, John 8:56-59, John 17:4-5, John 17:18. So, the fact that He existed before He became a man points to His deity.

The Essence of God is ascribed to Jesus Christ.

1. Savior, Psalm 2:6; Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:36; 2 Peter 1:11; Revelation 19:16.

2. Perfect righteousness and justice = holiness, Luke1:35; John 6:69; Hebrews 7:26.

3. Love, John 13:1,34; 1 John 3:16.

4. Eternal life, Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; John 1:1; John 8:58; Colossians 1:16-17; Ephesians 1:4; Revlation1:11.

5. Omniscience, Matthew 9:4; John 2:25; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Colossians 2:3; Revelation 2:23.

6. Omnipresence, Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:27.

7. Veracity, John 14:6; Revelation 3:7.

8. Omnipotence, Revelation 1:8.

He is the supreme being of the universe, king of heaven and earth! He has absolute authority and volition. Jesus Christ is also the sovereign one of the universes according to Genesis 1:1, Revelation 17:14; Revelation 1:5-6; Revelation 19:16. God is sovereign, Jesus Christ is sovereign, therefore Jesus Christ is God. God is also immutable. He is neither capable of nor susceptible to change. He is absolutely stable. His word and His works are immutable. To say that Jesus Christ is God is to say that we can know the truth about God or we can know what God is like. In fact, apart from Jesus Christ, we really cannot know God. There is no knowledge of God apart from a knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ. The second practical application of the truth that Jesus Christ is God is that God was always like Jesus. Thirdly, because Jesus Christ is God it means that He is available and able to satisfy all the needs of your heart. God is infinite and has inexhaustible resources.

We can summarize the biblical teaching about the person of Christ as follows: Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever.