

“The Deity Of Jesus Christ”

John 5:15-30

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Teaching Aim: To explore the meaning and the importance of the deity of Jesus Christ. To recognize that Jesus claimed equality with God the Father in five areas in **John 5:17-30**: His person; His works; His power and sovereignty; His judgment; and His Honor. To understand Jesus is a member of the Holy Trinity along with the Father and Holy Spirit. To realize salvation comes only by grace through faith in Christ alone!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Jesus declares His equality with God the Father (John 5:17-18)

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to give a defense before the Jewish religious leaders? (See **John 5:1-16; Exod. 20:8**) Have you ever known of a religious leader who acted godly on the outside but on the inside was corrupt? What are some ways that the hypocrisy of this individual hurt the Christian effort? Note: Simply believing that God exists does nothing more than qualify someone to be a demon. We must be born-again. (See **Jam. 2:19**)

2. In **John chapter 5**, Jesus miraculously healed an unnamed man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem who had been an invalid for 38 years. This should have been cause for celebration. Was it? What action did this man do that led to Jesus being persecuted (**vv. 15-16**)? According to **verse 16**, why did the Jews want to kill Jesus from this time on?

3. Starting in **verse 17**, Jesus began to give His legal defense to His right to heal on the Sabbath Day. What was Jesus’ line of defense (**vs. 17**)? What did Jesus call the Father? Why would this title be offensive to the Jews? What is the “*tetragrammaton*” and why was it used so frequently in Jewish writings? (Hint: Search Online)

4. What did the disciples request from Jesus in **Matt. 6:9-13**? How did Jesus teach them to begin this prayer? Why should use of the words “*Our Father*” drop every believer to his or her knees? (See **Heb. 2:11**) What do the words in **1 John 3:1-3** mean to you personally?

5. What does the Bible mean when it says, “*God rested on the Seventh Day*”? Did He cease from all work? How do we know that God is still at work today? (See **Isa. 40:28; Acts 17:28; Col. 1:16-17**) To whom does **Col. 1:15-17** ultimately refer to when it says, “*all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together*”? How does this make you feel towards Jesus? Should acts of mercy be done on the Sabbath Day? Why or why not? (See **Mark 2:27-28; Luke 14:5-6; Col. 2:16-17**)

6. How did the Jews respond to the words of Jesus in **verse 17 (vs. 18)**? What truth did the Jews clearly understand? Do you think most Christians understand this truth today? How would you explain the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity if asked?

7. Dr. R.C. Sproul says, “*We distinguish among the three persons of the Godhead (or Trinity) in terms of what we call the economy of God. It is the Father who sends the Son into the world for our redemption. It is the Son who acquires our redemption, for the Son is subordinate to the father. The Son doesn’t send the Father; the Father sends the Son. So even though the Father and the Son are equal in power, glory, and being, nevertheless there is an economic subordination of the Son to the Father.*” What does R.C. mean by the “*economic subordination of the Son to the Father*”? (See Dictionary)

Part II: Jesus declares that He is equal with God the Father in power (John 5:19-21)

1. According to **verse 19**, how dependent is the Son upon the Father? What does the Son do? Note: It is important for us to remember that Jesus had two natures; He is totally God and totally Man. We only have one nature, our human nature. How did the human nature of Jesus limit what He could do on earth? What did Jesus mean in **John 10:30** when He said, “*I and My father are one*”? (See Commentaries)

2. According to **verse 20**, where do we find the ultimate picture of love and unity in the Bible? What greater works was Jesus referring to (**vs. 21**)? (See **Luke 7:11-17; 8:49-56; John 11:41-44**) Note: Each of the three examples were physical resurrections. What kind of resurrection do we see in **1 Thess. 4:16-18**? What will our resurrected body be like? What will the purpose of our resurrected bodies be?

Part III: Jesus declares that He is equal with God the Father in authority (John 5:22-30)

1. According to **verse 22**, what has the Father committed to the Son? The Jews realized that God alone has the right to judge people for their sins. In claiming that He is the Judge, Jesus was, in essence, declaring Himself to be God. How do you think the Jews reacted to this claim? Why is it so important for people to honor the Son (**vs. 23**)? According to Jesus, how many people should honor Him? How does the honor of Jesus in Islam and Mormonism differ from the orthodox view of Jesus?
2. What truth can we learn from **1 John 4:14**? It is interesting that Jesus is both Savior and Judge. What two judgments will Jesus preside over? (See **2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15**) What is the difference between these two judgments? (See Commentaries)
3. For many, one of the favorite verses in the Bible is **John 5:24**. What is promised to those who hear the word of Jesus and believe in Him? What happens the moment a person receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? (See **2 Cor. 5:17**) Have you received Jesus as Savior and Lord? Note: There is nothing more important in life than being right with the Lord. According to **verse 24**, when does everlasting begin? Who has it?
4. What hour is Jesus referring to in **verse 25**? Who will hear the voice of the Son of God? Why is it so important that you be a Christian? When did you become a Christian?
5. What truth did Jesus reveal about Himself in **verse 27**? Once again, Jesus declared Himself equal with God in being able to resurrect people from the dead both physically and spiritually. How has your life changed since being resurrected spiritually?
6. Not only is Jesus the door to everlasting life, He is the giver of life (**vs. 26**). Jesus will also be the Judge at the end of time. What title did Jesus use for Himself in **verse 27**? What is the significance of this title? Many people believe the title "*Son of Man*" points to the humanity of Christ; is that its primary focus? What can we learn about the significance of this title from **Dan. 7:9-14**?

7. Not only will Jesus be the end time Judge, *“but the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.”* Both Jesus and the prophet Daniel speak of a double resurrection. What does the *“double resurrection”* mean theologically? (See **Dan. 12:1-2; John 5:28-29**)

8. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life, not our good works. We can't earn our salvation, we can't buy it, we can only receive it as a gift from God. What truths can we learn about our salvation from **Eph. 2:8-9**? In **Eph. 2:8-9** we learn that we are not saved by our good works. What does **Eph. 2:10** teach us?

9. John MacArthur notes that Jesus made five claims to His equality with God in **verses 17-30**:
 1. He is equal with God in His person (**vv. 17,18**); His works (**vv. 19,20**); His power and sovereignty (**vs. 21**); His judgment (**vs. 22**); and His honor (**vs. 23**). What is the definition of the word, *“deity”*? What truth can we profess after reading **John 5:17-30**?

10. What can be learned about the human nature of Jesus from **verse 30**? As children of God, we would be wise to remember that we would not do any good works apart from God's mercy and help! Why is it important for Christians to ask, *“What would Jesus do?”*

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The Jewish religious leaders sought to kill Jesus for performing an act of mercy on the Sabbath Day.
- Wearing a religious robe and looking the part doesn't mean that a person is godly.
- Our relationship with Jesus Christ is more important than anything else in life.
- If it is okay to save an animal on the Sabbath Day, it is certainly alright to help another human being.
- The work of Christ is in perfect harmony with God the Father: *“I and My Father are one.”* (**John 10:30**)
- The key to eternal life is believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- The hour is coming soon when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and live.