

Jesus



The Theanthropic Person!

Jesus is the God-man, the union of _____ deity and _____ humanity forever in one person. Two natures (human and divine) in one person.

Errors:

Arius - denied His deity.

Docetists - denied His humanity.

Nestorius - taught he was two persons.

Eutychius - taught His nature was partially human and partially divine.

His Humanity

The Purposes of the Incarnation

1. to reveal God to man. [Jn 1:18]
2. to provide an example for living. [1 Pet. 2:21]
3. to provide a sacrifice for sins. [Heb. 10:1-10]
4. to destroy the works of the devil. [1 Jn. 3:18]
5. to be our merciful High Priest. [Heb. 5:1-2]
6. to sit on the throne of David forever. [Lk. 1:31-33]

The Kenosis (Phil 2:6-11) “He emptied [*greek* = ekenosen] Himself”

Does not Mean

- He became less than God or ceased being God.
- He lost any of His attributes.

Does Mean

- He _____ His glory.
- He _____ Himself to take on a humanity.
- He voluntarily _____ the exercise of some of His attributes.

The Issue of Impeccability (Could Jesus Have Sinned?)

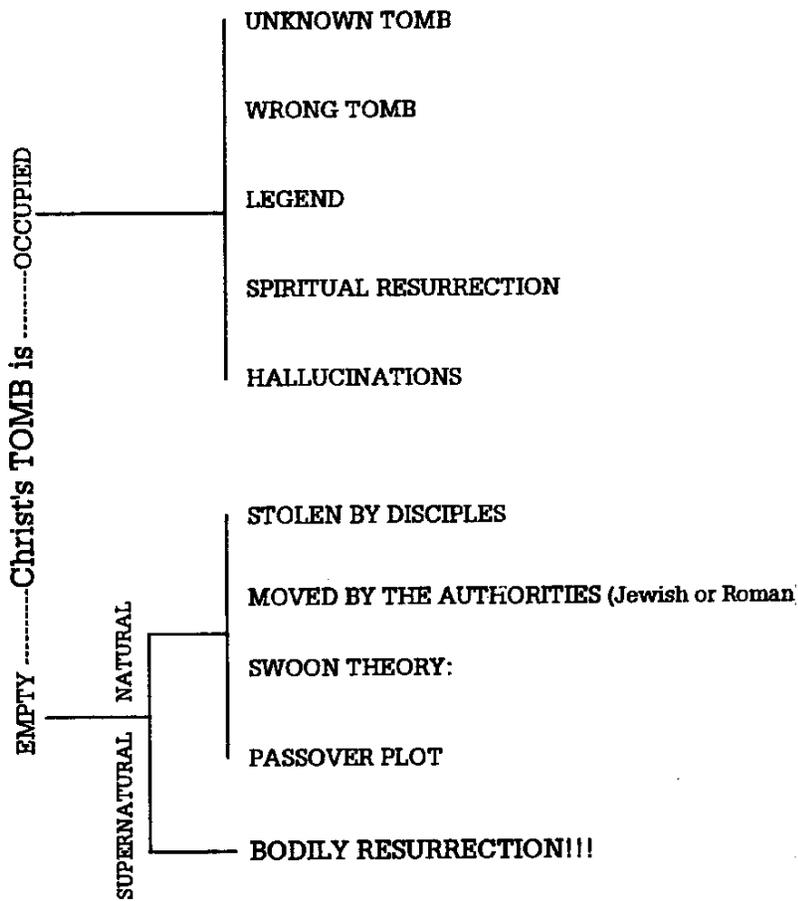
- “Yes, but He didn’t”
- “No, He couldn’t”

His Deity

KEY ISSUE: Proof of His Resurrection:

**The Historicity of the Resurrection
-- Alternatives --**

See: Josh McDowell. *The Resurrection Factor* (Here’s Life Publications, 1981).



The Four-fold Witness

The Empty Tomb

The Eye-Witnesses

The Origin of Christianity

The Prophets of Old

KEY ISSUE: Proof of His Deity:

1. Jesus received worship without giving rebuke.

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "**My Lord and my God!**"*

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:27-29)

Only God is to be worshiped, other gods are prohibited. (Ex. 20:3-5).

Yet, Jesus allows Thomas to call Him God without rebuke!

[Other examples where Jesus allows worship: a leper (Mt. 8:2); disciples (Mt.9:18); a man born blind (Jn. 9:35, 38); women post resurrection (Mt. 28:9, 17).

On the other hand...

Peter refuses worship.

*As **Peter** entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "**I am only a man myself.**" (Acts 10:2-26)*

Paul with Barnabas refuse worship.

*When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" **Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes** because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Men, why are you doing this? **We too are only men, human like you.**"(Acts 14:11-15)*

Angels refuse worship.

*I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I **fell down to worship at the feet of the angel** who had been showing them to me. But he 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!**" (Rev. 22:8-9)*

Jesus refuses to worship Satan.

"All this I (Satan) will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Mt. 4:9-10)

Conclusion: If Jesus is not really God...

Either...

[1] Jesus wrongly thought he was God and accepted worship. [He's Deluded]

[2] Jesus knew he wasn't God and wrongly accepted worship. [He's a Deceiver]

In either case: Peter, Paul and angels should be regarded above Jesus!

2. Jewish Leaders wanted to stone Jesus for the blasphemy of claiming to be God.

"I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." (John 10:30-31)

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore **they picked up stones to throw at Him**; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple. (Jn. 8:56-59) Also: Lk. 5:21; Mt. 26:65*

Note: Often it is said that Jesus never claimed to be God. Obviously the religious leaders of His day ("the Jews") understood His words as a blasphemous claim to deity. They were there, they heard Him, they were trained theologically and therefore their assessment of the theological implications of Jesus' claims was accurate.

Also, the Old Testament teaches that Messiah is God:

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**. (Isa. 7:14)*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. (Isa. 9:6)*

To claim Jesus is the promised Messiah or to assign Messianic titles to Him (i.e. *the Christ*, or the *Son of Man*) is to affirm His deity.

3. Key Principle: Absolute equality is not incompatible with **relational submission!**

Jesus and the Father possess the same essence and attributes, yet the Son willingly submits to the Father! *Many of the verses the JW's quote to prove inequality are simply statements of relational subordination.* (Ex: Jesus says "I always do the will of the Father" or "The Father is greater than I." -- These are acknowledgments of relationship not descriptions of essence or attributes).

Other illustrations of the same principle:

Marriage: Men and women are joint heirs of grace (1 Pet. 3:7) and are equals before God.

Yet a wife is to submit to her husband in their relationship in marriage (Eph. 5:22).

Church: All believers have an identical position in Christ (Gal. 3:28) and are equals before God.

Yet believers are to submit to the leadership of the elders (1 Pet. 5:5).

Key Implication: "Can You Identify this Man?" Experiment...