



Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
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"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

I-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

Mini Study

Is Jesus God?

As famously noted by a past US President, clarity often hangs on word meaning: "It depends what the meaning of "is" is." Perhaps surprisingly it is pertinent to the answer to our title question.

- Controversy surrounded the life of Jesus of Nazareth from birth. The circumstances of His birth were mysterious. His early life was unique. Certainly so, too, were the circumstances of His death. And it didn't end there. Even the apparently simple question *Who was He?* follows Jesus to this day.
- The battle-lines are drawn along the lines of *Is He God - or man?* The established church of the fourth century thought they could bury the question - much debated until then - at the Council of Nicea. Overawed by the Emperor Constantine a compromise was decided - Jesus was *both* God *and* man. However illogical that may seem, it is present orthodoxy. It continues a matter of debate.
- The history of Jesus pre-dates His conception. Only in recent years has the true story become confused. Theology has long equated Jesus with the LORD of the Old Testament - *Jehovah* (JHVH), the true *Elohim*. He is presented to us as "The Word": "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*" (John 1:1). That is, Jesus was fully God and perfectly at one with the Father - co-existent with Him.
- In the New Testament we also learn that Jesus was the interface with the Father's creation, the intermediary by which the unseen Father created the Universe: "*For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist*" (Colossians 1:16-17). As LORD Jesus sustained the Father's creation: "*Thou even Thou, art LORD alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and you preserve them all*" (Nehemiah 9:6). To Him the Father has committed all His dealings, at this time, with His creation: "*[the Father] has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man*" (John 5:27).
- The divine purpose of creation is to enable mankind to become part of the Family of God. Before creation (before sin entered) God provided a way to reconcile us to Himself through His Son (Ephesians 1:4-6). The LORD relinquished, His divine status and powers: "*Christ Jesus...Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men*" (Philippians 2:6-8). According to Paul "...*God sent forth his Son, made of a woman*" (Galatians 4:4).

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- That woman was Mary . She said “...from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done to me great things (Luke 1:48-49). The “great things” are recorded by Matthew: “...Mary had been betrothed to Joseph. Before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit” (ch 1:18). It was the fulfillment of an ancient divine prophecy: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, And they shall call His name Immanuel; which is, being interpreted, God with us” (v.23, Isaiah 7:14).
- As a human Jesus “... took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it [was necessary for] Him to be made like unto His brethren” (Hebrews 2:17), and He “...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus, writes Paul, was “... born of the seed of David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3).
- But Jesus is also called “*Immanuel; which is, being interpreted, God with us.*” The Spirit of God physically engendered Him, Jesus was indwelled by the Father - from His conception (John 14:11, 20). Though He encountered temptation (like all humans) Jesus never once transgressed the divine Law, never - unlike us (Romans 3:23) - fell short of the glory of God. Jesus never sinned and thus - by virtue of his divine origin - he became the perfect atonement for all of mankind (I Peter 2:22, Hebrews 5: 7-10). While on earth Jesus was totally at one with the Father: “*I and my Father are one*” (John 10:30), and “...*I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me*” (John 8:28).
- The evidence for this can be summed up in the words of the apostle Paul: “...[Jesus] was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:3-4). The status of Jesus as the Son of God was powerfully and irrefutably demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead - the truth of which was witnessed by many hundreds (I Corinthians 15:5-8).
- At His resurrection, Jesus was restored to His full and exclusive divine status, authority and powers: “*God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:9-11) (Ephesians 1: 17-23, Colossians 1:15). Now, exalted at the right hand of the Father “...in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9).

(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted.)

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