

# BASIC FOUNDATION ON THE DEITY OF CHRIST

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**TEXT: JUDE 3-4** “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. “NIV

## THEME: CHRISTOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION

The controversy about the Deity of Christ is not about His attributes of humanity but His attributes of being God.

### BACKGROUND

The earliest record of a "Christian" denying the deity of Christ did not occur until A.D. 190, when a Byzantine leather merchant by the name of Theodotus, referring to his denial of Christ, said, "I have not denied God but a man..." Then it was not until A.D. 318-320, when a presbyter from Alexandria by the name of Arius denied the deity of Christ, that the question became a major theological issue within the church. The uproar that issue caused is strong evidence that the church, up to that time, had never seriously questioned the deity of Christ. Otherwise, Arius's teaching would have been ignored as commonplace. The beliefs Christians held at the time of the controversy, including their belief that Christ was God had been formulated during two and a half centuries of severe persecution. The Council of Nicea (A.D. 325), was convened to resolve the issue ecclesiastically. After three months of painstaking deliberation, the deity of Christ was affirmed by that council. Arius and his two remaining supporters were expelled as heretics. ([http://www.greatcom.org/resources/jesus\\_and\\_his\\_deity/chap06/default.htm](http://www.greatcom.org/resources/jesus_and_his_deity/chap06/default.htm))

### THE NICENE CREED (THE CONTROVERSY WAS RESOLVED BUT STILL CHALLENGED TODAY)

*I believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and*

*glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. (Last paragraph added in A.D. 381]*

## THE EVIDENCE OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST MANIFESTED: JOHN 5:16-30

### 1. IN HIS SERVICE

- John 5:16-18 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. 17 **Jesus said** to them, "**My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.**" 18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** NIV

### 2. IN HIS WILL

- Matthew 5:19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but **whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** NIV

### 3. IN HIS INTELLIGENCE

- Matthew 5:20 **For I tell you** that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. NIV

### 4. IN HIS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS

- Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and **anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.**' NIV

### 5. IN CLAIMING DIVINE HONORS

- Matthew 5:22-23 **But I tell you** that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, NIV

### 6. IN IMPARTING LIFE

- Matthew 5:24-26 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 **I tell you the truth,** you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

### 7. IN HIS JUDICIAL POWER AND AUTHORITY

- Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 **But I tell you** that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed

adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. NIV

#### **WHAT DOES THE DEITY OF CHRIST MEANS TO US TODAY?**

1. HIS DEITY CONFERS US SECURITY IN OUR FAITH (John 14:3)
2. HIS DEITY CONNECTS US DIRECTLY TO GOD THE FATHER IN HEAVEN (John 14:6)
3. HIS DEITY CONFIRMS US AS ADOPTED CHILDREN IN GOD'S HEAVENLY FAMILY. (John 1:12)

#### **CONCLUSION**

As long as Satan is around to fulfill his job description as stated in John 10:10a "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy," the controversy will never stop and end. The fact is that we are in a battle for the minds and soul of people. Therefore, we must remember 1 Peter 3:15 *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."* (NIV)