

The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Introduction

- A. The importance of this subject cannot be overemphasized. The issues related to the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ form the basis for Christianity. If Jesus Christ is the Son of God then He is worthy of all worship, trust and obedience. If Jesus Christ is not God then we may not call ourselves Christians.
- B. The Lord Jesus spoke to this question concerning His deity.

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins. John 8:24

Observation: In the attempt to explain this verse the King James translators added the word "He". To the Jews of the New Testament days, however, it was much more emphatic for the Lord Jesus to claim, by the words "I am", equality with God the Father by such reference to the most unusual name of God in the Old Testament "I Am That I Am" as found in Exodus 3:14. He made the same claim later in this chapter when He said, "Before Abraham was, I am" (V58).

- I. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God in His Work, John 5:17,18.

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

Observation: The Lord Jesus healed on the sabbath and this offended the Jews. In this passage He claimed an unusual relationship with God as His Father and stated that His work was the work of God. The Jews clearly understood this and sought to kill Him.

- II. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God in His Person, John 10:30-33.

I and My Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from My Father, for which of those works do ye stone Me? The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we stone Thee not, but for blasphemy, and because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself God.

Observation: It is interesting to see that the Lord Jesus used the neuter for the word "one" and not the masculine. By this He said that He was of the same essence or nature with God. Again we see that the Jews fully understood this and accused Him of blasphemy.

- III. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God at His **Trials**, Mark **14:61-64**.

But He held His peace and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, and said unto Him, Art Thou the Christ the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am, and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy, what think ye? And they all condemned Him to be guilty of death.

Observation: There are three important truths in these verses.

- A. The Lord Jesus claimed all three of the divine titles of deity (the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Son of Man when He said "I am").

B. The high priest, when he heard the statement "I am" rent his clothing. The Old Testament prohibited the priest from doing this. It was the Jewish custom, however, that the priest had to do this when he heard blasphemy to indicate its seriousness. (See Leviticus 10:6; 21:10)

C. The Lord Jesus was convicted and killed for what the Jews considered to be blasphemy. They thoroughly understood His affirmation* At His Crucifixion it was the priests that taunted Him and said, "He trusted in God, let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him, for He said, I am the Son of God", Matthew 27:43.

IV. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God in Accepting Worship.

A. He accented worship from the leper, Matthew 8:2.

And behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

B. He accented worship from the Disciples, Matthew 14:33

Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.

C. He accepted worship from Thomas, John 20:27,28.

Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger and behold My hands, and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into My side. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God.

Observation: It was the conviction of the Lord Jesus Christ that only God should be worshipped (Matthew 4:10). In accepting worship He affirms in a very clear manner that He believed He was the Son of God.

V. The Lord Jesus Christ Claimed Equality with God as the Object of Faith.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:37,38.

Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:1-3.

Observation: The Lord Jesus was more than an example of faith. He made Himself to be equal with the Father as an object of faith. In fact, as we have seen in John 8:24, our salvation depends on believing in Him.

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is worthy of all our worship, love, trust and obedience.

Victor M. Matthews