

# **“Why Christ Had to be God”**

*The Mysteries of Easter #1*

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the first study in our series, The Mysteries of Easter, leading up to Easter Sunday. A mystery is something beyond our comprehension, yet it invites our wonder, our contemplation and our participation. In this study we ask “Why Christ had to be God?” We, being human, are limited in our comprehension of God, but that should not hinder us from seeking to know Him as fully as He has made Himself known.

### ***Ice Breaker (Optional):***

What is your earliest Easter memory?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### **The Evidence of Christ’s Deity**

#### **Q1. Read John 10:30-33; John 20:27-29; John 1:1-3, 14**

In each of these three passages, John makes the case for the deity of Christ. In John 10:30 He states that “I and the Father are one.” What are some ways that statement could be interpreted? How did the Jews interpret it in verse 33? No observant Jew would take God’s name in vain by using it merely as an exclamation. What then is the significance of Thomas’s statement in John 20:28? How did Jesus react to Thomas calling Him “my God?” After reading John 1:1 and John 1:14, who do you conclude John refers to as “the Word?”

### **He saves us with the perfect sacrifice.**

#### **Q2. Read Romans 6:23; Exodus 12:5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 3:2-5**

Romans 6:23 tells us that all of us owe what debt for our sins? The only one who can pay that debt for another is the one who is sinless and does not owe the debt of sin himself. How does Jesus fulfill the requirement of an unblemished Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:5, 1 Peter 1:18-19.) 1 John 3:5 states that “...He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. How does 1 John 3:2 not only confirm His sinlessness, but also confirm Jesus’ deity?

### **He leads us by the perfect example.**

#### **Q3. Read Mark 8:34; John 13:15; 1 John 2:4-6; Hebrews 4:15**

Jesus has taught us to follow His example (Mark 8:34, John 13:15), and His life gives us the example of how to live. What do feel

characterizes “the way Jesus walked” and what can we do to walk in the same way(1 John 2:6)? What is the “weakness” that you most need the example of Jesus to help you overcome?

### **He helps us as the perfect mediator.**

#### **Q4. Read 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 9:15**

Our God is holy and it says in 1 Timothy 6:16 that He dwells in unapproachable light and that none can see Him. Thankfully Jesus has full access to the Father, and is able to act as our mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). In addition to being our mediator, what other role does Jesus fulfill on our behalf (1 John 2:1)? What does Jesus’ mediation enable us to receive (Hebrews 9:15?) What do you think of as included in your eternal inheritance?

## **WRAP-UP**

We see the evidence of Christ’s deity in his own statements, the responses of those around Him and in the writings of both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus, being sinless, is able to offer the perfect sacrifice that atones for the sins of the whole earth, and as God in the flesh, he gave us the example of a perfect life and empowered us to follow that example. And when we sin, He is our advocate and mediator before the Father on our behalf, so that we might enjoy our eternal inheritance.

### ***Memory Verse***

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
Colossians 1:19 ESV*

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Challenge: In Exodus 3:14 God told Moses to tell the Israelites “I AM has sent me to you.” Look through the book of John to see what Jesus declared “I AM...”. (John 6:35, 48; 8:12; 9:5; 8:58; 10:9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1)*

**Q1** John 10:30-33 ESV - 30 I and the Father are one." 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

John 20:27-29 ESV - 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 1:1-3, 14 ESV - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **Q2**

Romans 6:23 ESV - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Exodus 12:5 ESV - 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,

1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV - 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 John 3:2-5 NKJV - 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He[Jesus] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

## **Q3**

Mark 8:34 ESV - 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

John 13:15 ESV - 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

1 John 2:4-6 ESV - 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Hebrews 4:15 ESV - 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

## **Q4**

1 Timothy 6:16 ESV - 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 Timothy 2:5 ESV - 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

1 John 2:1 ESV - 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Hebrews 9:15 ESV - 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Prayers con't

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