

Reflecting on Christ's Deity

- **Day one. Read 1John 1:7, 9; 1Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 9:14; 10:22; Isaiah 1:18**

Jesus shed his blood to cleanse us from sin and its effects in our life. Think about a time when you were really dirty, maybe having worked in the dirt and having gone without a shower for several days. What did it feel like when you were standing in the shower being washed clean? Think about that same effect on your moral life, your thoughts and your behavior through the blood of Jesus.

Pray and thank God for washing you. Ask him to help you live a “clean” life.

- **Day Two. Read Mark 8:34; 1Peter 2:21; Philippians 4:13; Galatians 2:20**

An example can be intimidating or inspiring depending on how reachable the standard is. Jesus is our example to follow. He lived a perfect life. That can be intimidating and even defeating until we realize that Jesus has put his life within us. What did “God in Christ” make possible in His life? What does “Christ in you” make possible in yours?

Pray. Ask God to show you how to appropriate Jesus’ life into yours.

- **Day Three. Read 1Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15**

Think about the practice of mediation. The goal is for each of the parties in a dispute to find resolution in a new agreement. Jesus is the mediator of the “new covenant” (agreement). Often we focus on the benefits we receive from the new covenant. Think about the benefits God receives. Can you think of anything we are agreeing to do for Him?

Pray. Ask God to help you understand your “part of the bargain” in the new agreement, and to live up to it.

Why Christ Had to be God

The Mysteries of Easter #1

Colossians 1:15-19 (NIV) ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.

The Evidence of Christ's Deity

Jesus' personal claims

John 10:30-33 (NIV) ³⁰ “I and the Father are one.” ³¹ Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, ³² but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” ³³ “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 8:58-59; Exodus 3:14

“I Am’s” of John: Bread of life (6:35, 48); Light of the world (8:12; 9:5); Before Abraham was I Am (John 8:58); The door (John 10:9); The Good Shepherd (John 10:11); The resurrection and the life (11:25); The way, the truth and the life (14:6); The true vine (15:1)

John 5:18 (NIV) 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.

Jesus' responses to others

Matthew 16:15-16 (NIV) ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

John 20:27-28 (NIV) ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 22:9

Biblical asserions

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) ⁶ 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.

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ 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.
Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35

Luke 1:35 (NIV) ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

John 1:1, 14 (NIV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
Colossians 1:15-19

Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

The Effects of Christ's Deity

1. He saves us with the perfect sacrifice.

Leviticus 17:11 (NIV) ¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.
Hebrews 9:22; Exodus 12:5-7, 13

1John 3:5 (NIV) ⁵ But you know that [Jesus Christ] appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.
Hebrews 4:15; 1Peter 2:22-23; John 8:46

1John 2:2 (NIV) ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
Romans 3:25; 1John 3:5; 1Peter 1:18-19

1John 3:5 (NIV) ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins.
John 5:24; 2Corinthians 5:21

1Peter 2:24-25 (NIV) ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
Isaiah 53:4-6

2. He leads us by the perfect example.

Mark 8:34 (NIV) ³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
Romans 15:5; 1Peter 2:21

John 13:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
John 15:12

Acceptance (Romans 15:7); Forgiveness (Colossians 3:13); Humility (Philippians 2:5-7); Servanthood (Mark 10:43-45); Perseverance (Hebrews 12:2-3)

Romans 8:29 (NIV) ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
Ephesians 4:13

3. He helps us as the perfect mediator.

1Timothy 2:5 (NIV) ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... Galatians 3:20

1John 2:1 (KJV) ¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (παράκλητον) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
1Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:15