

Is Jesus God?

John 5:22–23



Does It Really Matter?

- Whatever the Bible teaches about the deity of Christ, forsaking his teaching results in separation from the Father and the Son (2 John 2:9; cf. vv. 7–8, 10–11).
- Many people (e.g., atheists, agnostics, non-Christians, “Christians”) deny that Jesus is God, affirming that he was only a man or a representative of God.
- If belief in the deity of Christ is a man-made tradition, we must reject it; if, however, it is true, we must order our lives around it.

An Unlikely Source

- Some people claim that the Catholic Church, specifically the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), invented the doctrine of the deity of Christ, but this is patently false.
- Christians affirmed that Jesus was God from the beginnings of Christianity, as the New Testament clearly demonstrates (John 1:1, 14; 2 Pet 1:1; Titus 2:13).
- Surprisingly, the first persons to honor Jesus as God were Jewish Christians, who came from a rigidly monotheistic culture (Exod 20:3; Deut 6:4; Isa 42:8).

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“They who deify mortal things neglect the honor due to God” (Philo, 20 BC to 50 AD).

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To Him All Majesty Ascribe!

- Jesus not only accepted divine honors from individuals but also expected and demanded them—something that no common Jewish rabbi would do (John 5:22–23).
- How did people honor Jesus as God?
- Christians wrote doxologies (“words of praise”) about Jesus (1 Chron 29:10–11; Phil 4:20; 2 Pet 3:18).
- Christians worshiped Jesus (Matt 4:10; 14:33; 28:17; cf. 8:2; 9:18; Dan 7:14, 27; Heb 1:6; Phil 2:9–11).

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- Christians prayed to Jesus (Ps 65:2; Acts 1:21–25; 7:59–60; 2 Cor 12:8–9; 1 John 5:13–15; cf. Matt 6:9).
- Christians sang to Jesus (Exod 15:2; Ps 95:1; Eph 5:19–20; Rev 5:9–10; cf. Phil 2:6–11; John 8:58).
- Christians feared Jesus (Eccl 12:13; Matt 10:28; Heb 12:28–29; 2 Cor 5:10–11; Eph 5:21).
- Christians loved Jesus (Deut 6:4–5; Matt 22:37–38; 10:37–38; John 14:15, 21; 1 Cor 16:22).

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“How many psalms and how many songs, which from the beginning were written by pious brothers, sing about Christ as the Word of God and confess his Godhood” (Eusebius, ca. 260–339 AD).

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- Christians trusted and obeyed Jesus (Prov 3:5; John 14:1; Acts 16:31; Gal 3:26; Rom 10:11).
- Do you in word and deed honor Christ as God?

