

Is Jesus God?

Hebrews 1:3



An Exact Representation

- God possesses both communicable (transmittable) and incommunicable attributes, the latter being unique to deity (Exod 9:14; 2 Sam 7:22; Ps 89:6–7; Jer 10:6).
- God reveals his nature to us in a variety of ways (i.e., creation, Christ, Scripture) so that we can know him as he really is (Rom 1:20; 1 Cor 1:21; cf. 2:11).
- Jesus possesses characteristics that only God possesses, which necessarily makes him divine (John 1:1, 14, 18; 14:6, 9; 2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15; 2:9; Heb 1:3).

Incommunicable Attributes

- What uniquely divine qualities does Jesus possess?
 - *Eternal*. Only God is eternal, and Jesus is eternal (John 1:1–2; cf. vv. 14–15; Ps 90:2; Heb 1:12; cf. vv. 8–11).

Objection #1. Jesus must be a created being because he is the firstborn of all creation (Col 1:15; cf. v. 16; Ps. 89:27; Heb 1:2).

Objection #2. Jesus must be a created being because he is the beginning of God's creation (Rev 3:14; cf. 5:13; 22:13; cf. 21:6).

- *Uncreated*. Only God is uncreated, and Jesus is uncreated (John 1:3; cf. v. 10; 1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16–17; Heb 1:2).

Incommunicable Attributes

- What uniquely divine qualities does Jesus possess?
 - *Immutable*. Only God is immutable (unchangeable), and Jesus is immutable (John 8:58; cf. 1:1, 14; Heb 13:8).
 - *Omnipotent*. Only God is omnipotent (all-powerful), and Jesus is omnipotent (Col 1:16–17; John 3:31; cf. Phil 2:5–7).
 - *Omniscient/Omnipresent*. Only God is omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent, and Jesus is omniscient and omnipresent (John 1:47–49; cf. 16:30–31; Mark 13:32).

The incarnation necessarily limited the exercise of certain divine attributes, but Jesus never stopped being divine (Phil 2:5–11).

Not an Intellectual Exercise

- Why—other than knowing the truth—is it vital that we appreciate the divine attributes of Jesus? Because ...
 - If Jesus is ETERNAL, then we cannot ignore him.
 - If Jesus is UNCREATED, then he is our creator.
 - If Jesus is IMMUTABLE, then he will be faithful. (Will we?)
 - If Jesus is OMNIPOTENT/OMNISCIENT/OMNIPRESENT, then he know us and vows to dwell with and provide for us.
- Jesus accepted divine **HONORS** and possessed divine **ATTRIBUTES**, demonstrating that he is God.