

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

What think ye of the Christ?
Matthew 22:42

Uniqueness Of Christ

- ▣ His birth was unique.
- ▣ His claims were unique.
- ▣ His character was unique.
- ▣ His death was unique.

He TALKED As Though He Were Deity

- ▣ Jesus most commonly referred to Himself as "the Son of Man."
 - It emphasizes the humanity of Jesus, but implies His Deity.
 - Mark 10:45 *"For the Son of man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

He TALKED As Though He Were Deity

His enemies recognized that He claimed to be the Son of God, and called it blasphemy.

1. He identified Himself as the Son of God. John 9:35-37.
2. He called God His Father, (*John 5:18*). He further stated that *"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father"* (*John 5:23*).
3. He said, *"I and the Father are one."* The Jews took up stones again to stone Him, *"for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, maketh thyself God"* (*John 10:33*).

He TALKED As Though He Were Deity

His references to Himself indicated He was aware of His uniqueness.

- Personal pronouns He uses. John 6:35; 8:12; 11:25-26; 14:6
- He saw Himself as the object of prophecy. Isaiah 61:1-2; cf. Luke 4:16-21.
- He said that Moses had spoken of Him. John 5:46.
- He claimed that the scriptures bore witness of Him. John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 44.
- He used the divine title, *"I Am,"* from Exodus 3:4 (John 8:56)

He TALKED As Though He Were Deity

He invited men to come to Him, promising:

- a. To lift the burden of the weary. Mt. 11:28-30.
- b. To satisfy the hungry. John 6:35,
- c. To quench the thirst of the thirsty. John 6:35; 7:37.
- d. His disciples recognized the right of Jesus to make demands of them, and in their epistles, Peter, Paul, James and Jude delight to call themselves His slaves.

He TALKED As Though He Were Deity

He made Himself out to be the proper object of man's faith and love.

- a. "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He hath sent." John 6:29
- b. "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life." John 3:36
- c. "Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24
- d. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

Jesus exercised power such as no ordinary human being possesses.

1. He rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. Matthew 8:26.
2. He commanded even the unclean spirits, and they obeyed Him. Mark 1:27.
3. He fed over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes. Matthew 14:15-21.

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

Jesus exercised power such as no ordinary human being possesses.

4. He cleansed the lepers. Matthew 8:2-3.
5. He had power to call Lazarus from the grave. John 11.
6. He forgave sins. Mark 2:9-11

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

The moral conduct of Jesus is evidence He is "unique."

1. Jesus "knew no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (1 Peter 3:23).
2. We are informed that He "*was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin.*" Hebrews 4:15.
3. He challenged His enemies to convict Him of sin (John 8:46), but they could not. Even though they "*watched Him*" (Mark 3:2) and tried to "*catch Him in His words*" (Mark 7:13), they had to hire false witnesses to testify against Him (Mt. 26:60).

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

The moral conduct of Jesus is evidence He is "unique."

4. Pilate sentenced Him to death, publicly washing his hands and claiming himself "*innocent of the blood of this just person.*" Matthew 27:24.
5. Herod could find no fault with Him. Luke 23:15.
6. The centurion in charge of the execution said, "*Certainly this was a righteous man!*" Luke 23:47.

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

The greatest evidence of His Deity lies in His resurrection from the dead.

1. Paul says, "*concerning his Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was declared (to be) the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead; (even) Jesus Christ our Lord*" Romans 1:3-4

He ACTED As Though He Were Deity

2. Peter preached that His resurrection fulfilled Psalm 16:8; that the apostles were eye-witnesses to it (Acts 2:32), as also was the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:33-35), and then called upon His betrayers to

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified." Acts 2:36

3. The resurrection of Christ was a central theme in the preaching of the apostles in Acts 3:15; 10:36-43; 13:27-38.

Conclusion

What do you think of Christ?

1. Thomas, viewing the risen Lord, cried, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28
2. Peter asked, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou halt the words of eternal life." John 6:68