

61. The Deity of Jesus

January 15, 2017

There are many gods in this world. Please allow me to list a few of them:

- Islam – God (Allah) is One. Nothing should be associated with Allah. Anyone who does must be destroyed.
- Buddhism – The Buddha himself did not believe in the existence of God. Others speak of the Buddha as a universal enlightened consciousness or as a god.
- Mormonism – God the Father was once a man, but he “progressed” to godhood. According to them, worthy men may one day become gods themselves.
- Jehovah’s Witnesses – One-person god, called Jehovah. Jesus was the first thing Jehovah created.
- Scientology – They do not define God. Everyone is a “thetan,” an immortal spirit with unlimited powers of its own universe, but not all are aware of this.
- New Age – Everything and everyone is God. God is an impersonal or principle, not a person.
- Hinduism – God is “The Absolute,” a universal spirit. Everyone is part of God (Brahman).
- Greek Mythology – It belongs to the ancient Greeks, concerning their gods and heroes, the nature of the world, and the origins and significance of their own cult and ritual practices. These Greek gods and goddesses have more problems than humans.
- Ancestor Worship – Many Oriental people believe that deceased family members have a continued existence, that the spirits of deceased ancestors will look after the family, take an interest in the affairs of the world, and possess the ability to influence the fortune of the living.

One common denominator of all these cults is denying the deity of Jesus, the Savior of the world, and the exclusive way of salvation.

For over two and a half years, Jesus has been telling the first century Jewish people that He is the Son of God, the Messiah, and God Himself in many different ways. But these Jewish religious leaders were determined to kill Jesus no matter what, because His existence was a threat to their religious, social, and financial status.

The final section of chapter 10 of the Book of John closes the public ministry of Jesus Christ. He only has less than four months left before He will end up on the cross. After this chapter, Jesus will not give any public messages, nor does He do any miracles. He pretty much spends His time with His disciples and preparing them before His departure to heaven.

A. AGAIN?

John 10:22-24 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon’s porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

The “Feast of the Dedication” – a.k.a. Hanukkah or “the feast of lights” – takes place in December, near the time of the Christian Christmas celebration. The feast commemorates the rededication of the temple by Judas Maccabees in 164 B.C., after it had been desecrated by king Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire.

Between the last confrontation with the Pharisees from chapter 10 verses 11 though 21 and this event in v22, there was a gap of a little bit over two month period. In

chapter 7 verse 2, Jesus went to Jerusalem right after the Feast of Tabernacle which started mid October and stayed there. In other words, all the events recorded in chapter 7 through two thirds of chapter 10 happened during that time.

If someone reads v24 only, that person would think that these Pharisees are truly seeking the truth of God and desiring to know Jesus, but Jesus is the One who gives them hard times by not revealing His identity. Far from the truth!

B. DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

It is not like they've never heard Jesus' claims before. Oh, they did. But so far it was not the time for them to seize the Lord and kill Him. They wanted another chance.

Listen, there is a big difference between honest doubt and cynical unbelief. Actually, doubt is looking for answers from the truth, but cynical unbelief, flat out, doesn't care about the truth. Everybody struggles with spiritual reality that does not make sense in human logic. You have had some doubts about Christianity and I've had them, too.

Doubt is not necessarily the enemy of our faith in Christ Jesus, nor is it the opposite of our faith in Him. Doubt often leads the inquiring heart to the truth by seeking answers from it. But unbelief, from the beginning, makes a staunch decision to stand against the truth at all cost because the truth is against the unbelief's real desires – getting one's way without any accountability from God.

The vast majority of the world population is not Christian. But for their own emotional comfort's sake, they believe that they are going to go to heaven after they die. How? Because they think that all religions lead to the same God as Reverend Oprah Winfrey insists.

Really? Tell that to any of fanatic Islamic believers and see what happens. You might consider ducking when his face becomes red, starts to yell something in Arabic at the top of his lungs and is ready to chop off your head. The followers of Islam believe that there is only one way to Allah, their way. Ask Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons if all religions lead to the same God. They will look at you like you're on crack cocaine.

Not all religions lead to the same God. As a matter of fact, contrary to many people's opinions, Jesus demands His way exclusively.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

What does Christianity have that makes it be the right one over all the other religions in the world? The Bible and Israel. The Bible itself proves its authenticity for the last 4000 years like no other manuscripts around the world. According to the biblical prophecies regarding Israel, like no other countries in human history, Israel came back from over 1800 years of its non-existence.

If you want to know more about the authenticity of the Bible, please visit our church website with this link:

<http://ccos.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/AuthorBible.pdf>

You can download the book which I wrote. Relax, I don't get paid for you to download it. It's free. Share it with others. But if you sell it, I want half of your profits.

C. NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF THE FATHER'S HAND

John 10:26-29 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

The reason the majority of the world population doesn't believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord is their own free will of unbelief which God the Father confirms it as their decision for their eternal destiny.

From the human perspective, we become the followers of Jesus by our own free will, but from the divine perspective, we believe because we are His followers by God's sovereignty.

In the Bible, divine election and human free will are perfectly balanced. Many theologians and their followers from each side – Calvinism (a.k.a. Reformed theology) and Arminianism – argue that they are right. They are missing the true target, satan who cunningly uses human pride to divide the church with this useless theological argument. The idea of demanding other Christians to follow their pointless theology is pure demonic and prideful.

Just accept the fact that God has the total capability to know which eternal destination a person would choose with one's free will, and the Lord simply established each person's eternal destiny according to one's decision. Leave it at that. By the way, if you are looking for an argument from me about this issue, please don't bother.

D. I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE

John 10:30-33 I and My Father are one." 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

"I and the Father" preserves the separate individuality of the two Persons in the Godhead. The word "one" – 'heis' in Greek – means unity of nature or equality of two Persons.

The Jewish religious rulers were quick to understand the meaning of this statement and reacted by preparing to stone Jesus for blasphemy because He, a mere man in their opinion, had the audacity to claim that He was one with God. For them Jesus' statement did not mean simply an agreement of thought or purpose, but it carried a metaphysical implication of deity. The Father and the Son functioned as one.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons insist that Jesus Christ never had claimed to be God in the Bible. Of course, He never did according to their fabricated bibles. Their Jesus is NOT the same Jesus of our Holy Bible

If you've been with us throughout the studies in the Harmony of the Gospels, you've noticed that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God, and God Himself time after time. You have to be one of those unbelievers not to notice them.

E. I AM THE SON OF GOD

John 10:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'You are gods'?" 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

Jesus is quoting Psalm 82:6 to the Pharisees who know the OT like the back of their hand.

Psalm 82:6 I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.

Jesus is using a typical, rabbinical argument – arguing from the lesser to the greater. In context, Psalm 82:6 represents God addressing a group of Jewish human judges whom He calls “gods” – ‘elohim’ in Hebrew – and “children of the Most High.”

If, then, these terms can be applied to ordinary mortal human beings, how could Jesus be accused of blasphemy when He applies them to Himself whom God the Father sanctified and sent into the world on a special mission? Blasphemy only applies to the ones who are not God, but yet claim to be God. Jesus is not offering a false claim; rather He is merely pointing out what He is by rights.

F. REFUSING ANOTHER INVITATION OF JESUS

John 10:37-39 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

If these Pharisees were truly seeking the Messiah, as they claimed, they would come to an honest and irrefutable conclusion by simply examining the miracles He did that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, and God Himself.

Once again, they ignored the truth and tried to arrest Jesus, but He escaped and left Jerusalem completely until “Palm Sunday” when He presented Himself as Israel’s King.

G. MANY BELIEVED IN HIM

John 10:40-42 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. 41 Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." 42 And many believed in Him there.

I am sure that it must have been a refreshing time for Jesus to have no hostile people who constantly wanted to kill Him, but to have the ones who believed in Him as their Messiah.

Just like the Pharisees of the time of Jesus, there are many people today who call themselves the elites or intellectuals of the society and do not believe in Jesus of the Bible. It doesn’t matter what they refuse to believe or why. The fact is that they are designating hell as their eternal destiny by not becoming the believers of Jesus Christ of the Bible who is God.

H. APPLICATIONS

1) When you have a doubt in your hearts regarding God’s will or His ways, seek Him to give you wisdom to understand His way or His peace that would guard your hearts from the demonic attacks.

2) God doesn't request our inputs or opinions for our future, so don't volunteer to give some to Him. He wants our obedience and trust in Him.

3) Don't get into the never-ending theological disputes and arguments with fellow believers in Christ that divide the body of Christ. Our enemy is satan, not each other.

Proverbs 26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.