

***The QuickLearn Series \* Take four minutes to learn . . .***

**How Do We Know Jesus is the Son of God?**

**By Mark Roberts**

The case for Jesus' deity is based on two matters:

1. The reliability of the New Testament documents.
2. What the New Testament says.

Are the New Testament documents reliable?

People are always concerned that any book as old as the Bible might have become corrupted, or parts of it lost, during the many centuries since it was written. These concerns are valid, and reasonable. No thinking person will blindly accept what the New Testament says about Jesus without being sure what we are reading today is the original Gospel message.

Several factors are key to our faith in the New Testament:

1. Eyewitnesses wrote the New Testament. Peter assures us, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). The writers of the New Testament know the difference between truth and fairy tales.
2. We possess more than enough ancient manuscripts to be certain of the New Testament text. There are more than 5300 manuscripts of the NT, some dating back to the second century. Frederic Kenyon, famous textual authority says, "The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translation from it, and of quotation from it in the oldest writers of the church, is so large that is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities."<sup>1</sup>
3. Great care was taken with written material during New Testament times. Books and writing material were extremely expensive. There were no photocopiers that could "run off" additional copies whenever needed. Thus the manuscripts of the New Testament were closely guarded and cared for, as documents of great worth that would be costly to reproduce.
4. God has watched over the New Testament, both in its writing and in preserving it "*But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you*" (1 Peter 1:25). Whenever someone teaches the Bible has become corrupted they are actually saying God is not powerful enough to care for His word!

Now that our confidence in the New Testament is established, we turn our attention to see what it says about Jesus' deity.

The New Testament teaches consistently and confidently that Jesus is more than a man, and more than a prophet. The New Testament proclaims Him God.

1. Jesus made this claim: "Jesus said, 'Most assuredly before Abraham was, I AM'" (John 8:58). This is a deliberate taking of the sacred name of God, the I AM (Exodus 3:14). Notice that Jesus did miracles in support of this claim (Mark 2:9-11). Obviously, not everyone who does miracles is deity, but God would not have allowed His power to be used to confirm a lie. Jesus' claim must be true. Further, Jesus accepted worship often (Matthew 9:18; John 9:35-38). Only God is worthy of worship (Luke 4:5-8). Jesus' acceptance of worship shows He is God.
2. The apostles, inspired of God, taught that Jesus is deity. Paul wrote, "*For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*" (Colossians 2:9). John's Gospel begins by saying, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:1, 14). The Word is Jesus, and John says the Word is God.
3. Everyone understood Jesus to be teaching and claiming that He was deity. The Jewish religious leaders even attempted to stone Jesus because they knew He claimed to be God (John 8:59; 10:33).
4. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the paramount proof that He is indeed Deity. By this event He is "*declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*" (Romans 1:4).

Summary:

Jesus' deity is the clear teaching of the Word of God. If we believe the Bible we must believe in the deity of Christ. Further, if we want to go to heaven we must believe in Jesus' deity: "*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins*" (John 8:24).

Ask the one who gave you this tract, or contact the church distributing this tract to gain more information about Jesus, and about how you must respond to Him now that you know He is deity. Be assured: God has a plan for your life. You need to know it!

Self-Check:

1. The New Testament is not a collection of fairy tales.
2. God has watched over His word so that it will not be lost or corrupted.
3. Jesus clearly claimed to be deity.

4. The people of Jesus' time believed Him to be claiming deity.
5. To be saved one must believe in Jesus' deity.

Endnotes:

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1. Sir Frederic Kenyon, *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*, 4th ed. (New York: Harper, 1958), page 55.