

# The Divinity of Christ

Reference: The Divinity of Christ by HH Pope Shenouda III

## Why is the Divinity of Christ Important?

- Central to our Faith
  - If Christ is not Divine, then we do not have salvation
- Many heresies rose against the Divinity of Christ
  - Greatest heresy was Arian heresy
  - Arius and his heresy were refuted, but residues of Arianism spread
  - Atheist philosophers and scientists rose against the Divinity of Christ

# Why is the Divinity of Christ Important?

#### Present Day Heresy – Jehovah's Witnesses

• Jehovah's Witnesses disagree with the mainstream Christian belief that Jesus was "fully God, fully man." Witnesses teach that Jesus was not God, but rather God's first creation. Jesus existed in pre-human form as God's agent of creation and God's chief spokesman (the Word), and took on human form as the man Jesus by means of a virgin birth. The purpose of Jesus' incarnation on earth was threefold in the view of Witnesses: (1) To teach the truth about God; (2) to provide a model of a perfect life for people to follow; and (3) to sacrifice his life to set humans free from sin and death. His crucifixion was not on a cross, but a single upright stake. After his death, God raised Jesus from the dead "as a spirit creature" and Jesus returned to his home in heaven. Jesus was not made King, however, until 1914.

## 30 Proofs on the Divinity of Christ

1-Explicit verses on the Divinity of Christ

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. *Is9:6* 

# 30 Proofs on the Divinity of Christ – cont'

- The Divinity of Christ with Respect to Him being One of the Holy Trinity
  - 2-With respect to Him being the Logos
  - 3-With respect to Him being the Creator
  - 4-With respect to Him sending the Holy Spirit
  - 5-With respect to His other relations with the Holy Spirit
  - 6-With respect to His Decent from Heaven
  - 7-With respect to Him Being the Lord
  - 8-With respect to Him Being the Son of God
  - 9-With respect to Him being the Only Son of God

# 30 Proofs on the Divinity of Christ - cont'

- The Divinity of Christ with Respect to His Divine Attributes
  - 10-With respect to faith in Him
  - 11-With respect to Him being the Savior and the Redeemer
  - 12-With respect to His Relation with the Father
  - 13-With respect to Him being Beyond Time
  - 14-With respect to Him being the First and the Last
  - 15-With respect to Him being Omnipresent
  - 16-With respect to Him being the Judge
  - 17-With respect to Him being the Examiner of Hearts and Minds
  - 18-With respect to Him being Good and Holy
  - 19-With respect to Him being the Forgiver of Sins
  - 20-With respect to Him accepting Worship and Prayer
  - 21-With respect to Him being the Giver of Life

# 30 Proofs on the Divinity of Christ – cont'

- The Divinity of Christ with Respect to His Absolute Authority
  - 22-With Respect to His Authority over Nature
  - 23-With Respect to His Authority of Angels
  - 24-Because the Kingdom Belongs to Him
  - 25-With Respect to His Authority over Life and Death
  - 26-With Respect to His Authority over the Law
  - 27-With Respect to His Authority over Himself
  - 28-With Respect to His Authority of Demons
  - 29-With Respect to Him Being the One to Whom Glory and Power belong
  - 30-With Respect to His Miracles

# Christ is God with Respect to Him Being One of the Holy Trinity

## The Logos

 The term "The Word" means the Logos or Reason, or Mind which is the position of the Person of the Son in the Holy Trinity

...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God 1C01:24

- He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called 'The Word of God.' Rev19:13
- Since He is the Reason of God, He is inseparable from Him because God couldn't exist without His Reason. Therefore He is not created, but is eternally existing.

# Identify the Attribute(s) Apparent in the Verses/Reference

- Forby Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-all things have been created through Him and for Him (Col1:16)
- The Wedding of Cana in Galilee John2
- The Miracle of the Man Born Blind John 9

- Attributes:
  - The Creator
  - His Authority (the miracle happened because He willed it)

### Christ is God – He sends the Holy Spirit

- Now the Lord is the Spirit (2Cor3:17)
  - God is Spirit
- "... I am the LORD your God and that there is no other...And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams,I will pour out my Spirit in those days. (Joel2:27-29)
  - God is the One who pours out and sends His Spirit
- Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear (Acts2:33)
  - The Lord Jesus Christ pours out, sends and breathes the Spirit of God
- God sends the Holy Spirit, Christ sends the Holy Spirit so ... Christ is God

#### THE LORD

- I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another (Isα 42:8)
- Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10,11)
- That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that <u>Jesus Christ is Lord</u>, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:10,11)
- God is the Lord, and Christ is called the Lord, therefore Christ is God

#### The Son of God

- We are called sons of God...how do we differ?
  - We are sons through faith, love and adoption
    - So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10)
  - He is the Son of God by definition He is consubstantial with the Father
- God the Father testified that Jesus Christ is His Son
  - The Epiphany (Divine Manifestation)
    - And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son,
      in whom I am well pleased." (Matt3:17, also see Luke 3:22)

#### The Son of God

- Matt 26:63-65
- To declare being the Son of God was considered blasphemy
- The Jews understood that and that is why they sought kill Jesus
   Christ when He said He was the Son of God
- John8:36
- The Son sets us free
- He is the ONLY begotten Son of God
- For God so loved the world that He gave <u>His only begotten Son</u>, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.(John3:16)

# Christ is God with Respect to His Divine Attributes

#### **Belief in Him**

- Believing in another human being doesn't do much (ex. the promises of politicians)
- Believing in Jesus Christ...

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John20:31)

#### The Savior and The Redeemer

- Ps 103:1-4
- God alone redeems and saves the human race
- Because sin is against God and since God is infinite, then sin is infinite and its punishment is infinite.
- Should it be redeemed, it must be by an infinite atonement, sufficient for forgiveness of all the people of all generations to the end of the ages
- Only God is infinite, therefore only God can be the redeemer (so the need for His Incarnation is clear)
- And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. (Isa 45:21) note: this is an OT reference
- How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord...(Heb 2:3)

#### **His Divine Attribute?**

- John 10:30-33
- John 14:10
- Phil 2:6
- Mat 26:64, Acts 7:56, Heb 1:3

- Attribute:
- His relation to the Father

# Sitting at the Right Hand of God

- The Father has no right and no left because He is Infinite and fills all things
- The word "right" is a symbol of power and of righteousness and of majesty
- The expression "sitting at the right hand of the Power" means that the stage of emptying Himself has ended and that the Son entered into His glory.

#### **His Attribute?**

- 1. John 13:34, Matt 7:28
- 2. Is 44:6, Rev 1:17
- 3. 2Cor 5:10, 2 Tim 4:1
- 4. John 9 (more than one)
- 5. Matt 18:20, Gal 2:20, Rev 3:20
- 6. John 10: 17, 18

- 7. Luke 6:7-9, Luke 9:46,47, Rev2:23
- 8. Matt 9:1-8 (more than one)
- 9. Matt 14:25-32, Luke 21:5-11
- 10. Ps 139:7-10, 1Kin 8:27
- 11. Mark 9:25
- 12. John 8:58, John 17:24, Mic 5:2, Heb 13:8

#### Conclusion

The whole life of the Lord Jesus Christ was a series of miracles, indicating His Divinity which was united with His Humanity throughout the period in which He appeared in the flesh, and also forever.