

English Transcript

Foundations of the Christian Faith – Course 1

Lesson 5 - God the Son (Part 1)

This is Foundations of the Christian Faith, Course 1, Lesson 5.

The Doctrine of the Son of God – Part 1.

We begin this lesson on page 32 in your handout.

When we describe Jesus as the Son of God, we mean all the traits which belong to God the Father also belong to God the Son. However, Jesus has a unique role within the Trinity and a unique role in God's relationship with humanity. In this lesson we will explore the biblical truths related to the unique person and role of the second person of the Trinity, God the Son.

As we begin, I would like to start with the clearest passage in the Bible that summarizes the doctrine of God the Son. It is found in Philippians 2:5-11.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In verse 6 we see that Jesus is God

In verses 7-8 we see that Jesus is Man and Savior

And in verses 9-11 we see that Jesus is also Lord!

The second person of the Trinity, The Son of God, the eternal Word of God is fully God, fully man, the suffering servant and Savior of the World, and the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Hebrews 13:8. It says,

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- When the verse says “yesterday,” what does this refer to?
Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, the Word of God existed from eternity past.
- When the verse says “forever” or “tomorrow”? what does this refer to?
Jesus Christ will exist forever into eternity future.

- In what form does Jesus exist today and in the future?
Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world. He is also the eternal Word of God, the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity.

Jesus Christ is unique. He is God and He is man! He is Savior! And He is Lord! In this lesson we will explore the doctrine of Jesus as God and Jesus as man.

Take a minute and write down things that only God can do. What would be on your list?

- Only God can create.
- Only God can forgive sin.
- Only God is the giver of life.
- Only God can judge the world.
- Only God can receive honor.
- Only God reward His saints.
- Only God accepts worships.

Listen to what the Bible says about Jesus.

John 1:3

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Mark 2:7 and 10

⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”

John 5:21

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

John 5:22

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son ...

John 5:23

... that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

John 20:28

Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.” (Jesus accepted this worship that was reserved for only God.)

Based on the Scriptures, all things that only God can do, Jesus Christ has the authority to do as well. The only conclusion is that Jesus Christ is God!

In this lesson we will see what Scripture says about Jesus based on the claims of the Bible, the attributes of God, the power and authority of God, Jesus’ titles, statements of deity, the and the “I Am” statements related to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

At the bottom of page 32, Jesus is the Son of God and He is a co-equal member of the Trinity. The Bible demonstrates this in several ways. The Bible claims that Jesus is God. The term God and Lord are applied to Jesus in context which make His divine nature obvious.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Hebrews 1:8

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

1 Cor 8:6

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

There are other references to support this point that you can look up as well at the bottom of page 32.

On the top of page 33, we can consider the theme of lessons 3 and 4 with the attributes of God. There are many references that describe Jesus as having the attributes of God. The corresponding Scripture references are listed in your handout.

- Jesus is sovereign, He has all authority in heaven and on earth.
- Jesus is eternal.
- Jesus is unchanging or immutable.
- Jesus is all knowing or omniscient.
- Jesus is perfect or without sin.
- Jesus is holy.
- Jesus is truth.

Each of these attributes of God are assigned to Jesus as the Son of God.

The next section demonstrates that Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, had power and authority reserved for only God. Jesus demonstrated his power or omnipotence in his earthly ministry in the following ways.

- Jesus demonstrated power over nature when he calmed the storm in Matthew 8.
- Jesus demonstrated power over disease and sickness in Luke 4 and John 9.
- Jesus demonstrated power over demons and unclean spirits in Mark 5 with the healing of the demon possessed man of the Gerasenes.
- Jesus demonstrated power over death in John 11 with the raising of Lazarus.
- Jesus demonstrated power or authority to forgive sins in Mark 2 with the healing and forgiveness granted to the paralyzed man.
- According to Mark 2:7, only God can forgive sin.
- Therefore, because the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, Jesus must be God.

As we continue to the next section, we see that there are specific titles and descriptions assigned to Jesus in the Scriptures that confer deity.

- Jesus said that He was the *“bread of life that came down from heaven”* and that He alone was *“the way, the truth and the life”* showing he was God.
- Jesus is called Immanuel which means *“God with us.”*
- Jesus is called the *“Word”* emphasizing His divine nature and the revealer of God.
- Jesus referred to Himself as the *“Son of God”* and for this term he was accused of blasphemy, claiming to be God.
- Jesus and the Scriptures claimed that He existed before His birth:
 - The eternal Word of God became flesh,
 - God sent His Son born of a woman,
 - Jesus was from the beginning,
 - Before Abraham was, Jesus was the I am,
 - Jesus possessed the glory of God before the world began. He asked of the Father, *“Give to me the glory that I had with you before the beginning of the world (John 17:5).”*

Each of these sections provide evidence from Scripture that Jesus either claimed to be God, or the Scriptures proclaimed His deity.

In the next section, pause the recording for a minute to look up the statements of deity listed. Once you have looked up the references and recorded your responses, continue with the recording.

What did you discover?

- Colossians 2:9 says: *“the fullness of the deity dwells in Christ Jesus in bodily form.”*
- Hebrews 1:1-3 says: *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being.”*
- John 1:1, 14 says: *“Christ Jesus is the Word and the Word is God, And the Word became flesh.”*
- Romans 9:5 says: *“Christ, who is God, over all.”*
- Titus 2:11 says, *“Jesus Christ is our great God and Savior.”*
- John 20:28 says that Thomas said, *“My Lord and my God”* (Only God is to be worshipped)

In the next section we can see that a key name for God is attributed to Jesus repeatedly in the New Testament. God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3 as Yahweh, I Am that I Am.

Pause the recording once again and look up the references for the “I Am” statements reserved for Jesus in the New Testament and then continue with the recording.

How did you do?

- Matthew 11:29 Jesus reveals His character. Jesus says, I am gentle and humble.
- Matthew 27:43 Jesus says, I am the Son of God.
- Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, I am always with you.
- John 6:35 Jesus says, I am the bread of life.
- John 8:12 Jesus says, I am the light of the world.
- John 8:23 Jesus says, I am from above.
- John 8:58 Jesus says, before Abraham was, I am.
- John 10:9 Jesus says, I am the door.
- John 10:14 Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.
- John 11:25 Jesus says, I am the resurrection and the life.
- John 14:6 Jesus says, I am the way, the truth, and the life.
- John 15:5 Jesus says, I am the true vine.
- John 18:17 Jesus says, I am the king.
- Isaiah 44:6, 48:12, and Revelation 1:8, God says that He is The First and the Last and The Alpha and Omega)
Then in Revelation 1:17, 21:6 and 22:13 Jesus says, I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
- Revelation 2:23 Jesus says, I am the one who searches the minds and hearts.
- Revelation 3:11 Jesus says, I am coming soon.
- Revelation 22:6 Jesus says, I am the Root, the Descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star.

The Gospel of John was written to prove the deity of Christ Jesus. That He is the I Am. It was written so that the world would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing the world may have life in His name. The apostle John recorded seven signs and seven I Am statements to make the case that Jesus is God, the promised Messiah, the Savior of the World.

When Jesus made the claims that have been listed in this lesson, the religious leaders of His day knew exactly who Jesus claimed to be. They did not believe in His deity but they knew that was who Jesus claimed to be.

Look at the summary of John 10:31-35 at the top of page 35.

In John 10:33 The Jews answered Jesus, *“For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy; and because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God.”*

They knew exactly who Jesus was claiming to be. He claimed divine authority over angels. He had claimed divine authority over men. He had claimed divine authority over everything when he said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). He claimed divine authority over the Law, over the Sabbath, over the traditions of the elders, every bit of it. He claimed power to forgive sin, power to raise himself from the dead, and he proved it. This is a quote from John MacArthur.

Because of Jesus’ claims, they wanted to kill him. Jesus was claiming to be God.

So do not let anyone tell you that Jesus never claimed to be God. In this lesson, Jesus does the things only God can do. Jesus demonstrates He is a co-equal member of the Trinity. The Bible demonstrates this in many ways. There are titles for deity assigned to Jesus. Jesus is credited with attributes of God. Jesus demonstrated power and authority over nature, over demons, over disease, over death and the authority to forgive sin. Jesus is described in ways that only God could be described. And it seems clear that Jesus was presenting Himself as the I Am.

We began with Philippians 2 stating the Jesus Christ is God, Jesus Christ is Man, Jesus Christ is Savior and Jesus Christ is Lord. The second half of this lesson will prove that not only was Jesus God but also that Jesus was also man. Turn with me to page 36.

Read Philippians 2:6-7

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Jesus Christ was in very nature God. But he took on an additional nature at the incarnation when the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14). He took on the nature of the servant and took on flesh. The eternal Son of God never stopped being God. He never gave up His deity. Instead, humanity was added to His deity. The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life. He took the form of the Suffering Servant prophesied by the prophet Isaiah. The Son of God took on flesh to be our substitutionary atonement for sin. He would be our substitute. He would be our representative to take our place on the cross, to die the death that we should die because of our sin.

We explored the evidence in Scripture of the deity of Christ Jesus. Now we can see similar evidence for His humanity as well. This is the mystery of what is referred to as the hypostatic union, with Jesus Christ being fully God and fully man.

The Bible affirms this just as clearly as the truths about his deity.

- The miraculous birth of Jesus to a virgin named Mary. Jesus is born a unique being whose mother was human and whose father was God.
- There was nothing noteworthy of his birth. Luke describes the birth of Jesus in less than eight verses. His conception was supernatural, but Jesus was born, cared for as an infant, grew and matured like every other human being.
- Jesus was a real man. He was a real human in addition to being God. Jesus' favorite title for himself was the Son of Man. Jesus identified with humanity. He also used it in connection with the predictions of his suffering on behalf of humanity. Luke portrays Jesus as the Savior, as our substitute, as the perfect man. The Son of Man was also a messianic title used by the prophet Daniel.
- Jesus had all the physical limitations of any human being. He had a physical body. Jesus had a human mind and emotions. He could feel hunger and thirst.
- Jesus is our Great High Priest who understands those he represents by personal experience. He suffered. He was tempted but was without sin. He is therefore able

to help those in trouble who are facing temptation in a wonderfully personal way. He can sympathize with our weaknesses because he experienced what we experienced. He walked our path. He took our place.

- Jesus had to be fully human for his sacrifice to apply to humanity. You see that in Hebrews 2:16-18.

¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus had to be God because he had to be without sin to be our perfect substitute. There is no one without sin except God himself.

Jesus is unique.

There is no one like Christ Jesus. Our finite minds will never fully grasp or comprehend the truth that Jesus is God and that Jesus is man.

The diagrams on page 37 in your handout help to explain the relationship between the Trinity, the two natures of the Son of God being divine and human, and then Jesus' human nature composed of a body and a spirit.

The first circle illustrates the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

One God, three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal, co-eternal, worthy of worship, with the same attributes yet with distinct roles. Equal and different.

The middle picture illustrates the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God.

Divine, Jesus is God. Human, Jesus is man. One person with two natures, a divine nature, and a human nature. Humanity was added to His deity. Nothing was taken away from the Son of God in His deity. Humanity was added to Him at the incarnation.

The third picture illustrates Jesus' human nature. He is our substitute. Jesus had a real body. A physical body. And he had a spirit as well just as we are physical and spiritual.

There were many false teachings in the early church, as there are today, regarding the dual nature of Christ Jesus. The second person of the Trinity, the Son of God, the Word of God existed eternally. The diagram on page 38 illustrates this point.

The Son of God, the eternal Word of God has no beginning or no end. When Jesus Christ returns in glory in Revelation 19, He will come with titles of the Word of God and the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

At the moment of the incarnation, humanity was added to the deity of the Son of God. And from that point forward, the two natures of the Lord Jesus Christ continue to exist together into eternity.

The first Adam was created without sin, yet he sinned and brought death to all humanity.

The second Adam, Jesus Christ, born without a sin nature, He fully obeyed the law and He brought life and righteousness. We see that in Romans 5:12-21.

I included on page 38 a summary of a few of the leading heresies of the early church that denied the full humanity of Christ.

On page 39 you can read about the doctrinal battle for truth related to the dual nature of the Son of God as fully God and fully man. It was finally settled in 451 AD at the Council of Chalcedon.

The Council produced the Chalcedonian definition which affirmed that Christ is the same perfect in Godhead and perfect in manhood, truly God and truly man. Jesus Christ is to be acknowledged in two natures, in confusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably. The divine and human natures of Christ are distinct yet united in one person.

This coexistence of Christ's two natures is called the hypostatic union. By affirming that Christ is one person who is both divine and human, the Council of Chalcedon made it easier to identify error. The Chalcedonian definition affirms the truth that Jesus Christ is fully divine and at the same time fully human.

He is both the Son of God (1 John 5:10), and the Son of Man (Mark 14:21). Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate, assumed perfect humanity to save fallen humanity. He could not have saved us unless he was fully God and fully man.

In summary, Jesus Christ, the God/man, truly died as a penal substitutionary atonement for sin. But the union of his two natures was never separated or broken. He never ceased to be the God/man in his birth. He never ceased to be the God/man in his death and resurrection. He is now reigning, ascended in heaven as our mediator as the God/man. And he will return one day as the God/man to join our spirits to our resurrected, glorified bodies to be fit for eternity in the new heaven and new earth.

What other God is there who would seek His lost creation with such zeal that He was willing to take on flesh to redeem His people at the cost of His own life? This is the Savior that we serve. This unique God/man did for us what could be done in no other way. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

Jesus Christ is God! Jesus Christ is man! Jesus Christ is Savior! And Jesus Christ is Lord! To the glory of God the Father. Hallelujah, Amen!

This concludes Lesson 5. In Lesson 6 we will continue with the doctrine of the Son of God as we discuss the sufficiency of Christ's work in terms of His three-fold office as Prophet, Priest, and King. God bless you.