

IS CHRIST DEITY?

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THE CREDENTIALS OF JESUS CHRIST

Most people recognize that simply making a claim, no matter how simple or how grand, does not necessarily make something true. That principle is true with the claims Christ made about his deity. Just because he made claims of deity does not necessarily make them true. To determine whether or not his claims were true, the credentials of Jesus Christ must be examined. What were the credentials of Christ? What were his "proofs" of deity? When we examine the scriptures, we find that Jesus' moral character was completely consistent with his claims of deity. When we examine his credentials, we also find consistency with what the Bible says about God's Son.

JESUS CHRIST WAS SINLESS

The first thing that stands out about this man Jesus is the fact that he lived a sinless life. In **John 8:46**, Jesus challenged his enemies. He said, **"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"** The moral quality of the life of Christ was such that he was able to legitimately challenge his enemies with this question - "Can you prove me guilty of sin?" His enemies were speechless. How they would have enjoyed pointing out a character flaw! How they would have relished bringing up some past vice or some present weakness! Yet the caliber of his life left them with nothing to accuse him of! The fact is, he was sinless. We read of the many temptations of Christ such as those spoken of in **Matthew 4**, yet we never read of a confession of sin on his part. He instructed his followers to seek forgiveness, yet we never read of him asking for forgiveness. And in what is truly the most remarkable testimony of the perfect nature of Christ, we find men like Peter, John and Paul, men who were raised to believe in the universality of sin, all acknowledging the fact that Christ was without sin. Peter wrote, **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."** (**1 Peter 2:21-22**). Peter comments on the sufferings of Christ, yet he points out that his suffering was not because of any sin Christ had committed. Men often suffer because of their sin. Yet the sufferings of Christ were not because of anything he had done wrong. He did no sin and not only that, but there was no guile or deceit in his words. His existence was the very essence of truth and holiness. Now consider the fact that the man writing these words, Peter, was trained from his earliest days to believe in the universal nature of sin. He had been taught and believed that all men had sinned and that there was none righteous before God. And yet in spite of this knowledge and in spite of this belief, Peter labels Christ as being perfect. He says that he did no sin. Peter's fellow apostles also made this same declaration of perfection on the part of Christ. Paul wrote, **"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."** (**2 Corinthians 5:20-21**). John wrote **"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."** (**1 John 3:4-5**). No other man can match this important point of being sinless. Only Christ could truthfully make that claim and it is one proof of his deity.

CHRIST DEMONSTRATED POWER OVER NATURAL FORCES

Christ often demonstrated his deity by showing his power over natural forces. **"Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him."** (**Luke 8:22-25**). The disciples of Christ recognized a fact most of us accept. A normal, mortal man cannot on his own cause the winds and waves to be calmed. The natural elements do not listen to mortal men! Even the enemies of Christ could not deny the power he had and the miracles he did. **"...What do we? for this man doeth many miracles."** (**John 11:47**). After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, his enemies never once denied his power over the dead. Had they done so, they would have looked foolish because a formerly dead man named Lazarus was now walking amongst them! Modern day prophets may claim this power but we have to ask, where is their proof? Why didn't they use this power and ability to calm the winds and waves before Hurricane Katrina? Why don't they spare their neighbors from floods and tornado's? The fact is, these false prophets are not deity. Christ was and only he could do these things because God was with him.

CHRIST DEMONSTRATED POWER OVER SICKNESS AND DISEASE

Along with his power over the natural elements, Christ also demonstrated his power over sickness and disease. He made the lame to walk. He caused the mutes to speak. He made the blind to see. **"And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."** (**Mark 4:24**). The diseases Christ cured were most often congenital diseases not cured by psychosomatic cures. For some aches and pains, we can get relief from what is known as psychosomatic cures. There was a time when doctors would give patients sugar pills and lead them to believe that the pills were magical. Very often, the patient would begin to believe that he felt better. These placebo's would work for common aches and pains, but no sugar pill will cure blindness or leprosy or the palsy! Anyone can claim to heal someone of an issue which cannot be seen. Anyone can claim to heal an aching shoulder and anyone can claim to have been healed of an aching shoulder. The healing power of Jesus was obvious for all men to see. Men born blind were able to see. Men who had never walked could now walk. Jesus could do those things only because he was deity. He was God with us.

GOD CONFIRMED THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Finally, the most compelling piece of evidence in favor of the deity of Christ is that God the Father confirmed his deity. **"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."** (**Hebrews 1:5-8**). Was Christ deity? He claimed it and the evidence backs him up. Jesus Christ was Emmanuel, meaning God with us!