

The Deity of Christ

Part One

Arius and all that...

οὐσία (ousia) speaks of “the one nature, being or essence of God which Father and Son share fully and equally, making Them God”.

ὑπόστασις (hypostasis) speaks of “the particular and distinct form in which the divine nature exists in the Father and the Son, making Them two distinct Persons”.

So the Father and the Son both share the same οὐσία, but they each have a distinct ὑπόστασις. We would say that there are three Persons, three ὑπόστασεις, all sharing the same divine nature, the same οὐσία.

The Nicene Creed:

“I believe ... in one Lord, Jesus Christ, *The Son of God, The only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all ages, Light from Light, True God from true God, Begotten, not created, Of the same essence as the Father, Through whom all things were created; Who, for us human beings and our salvation, Came down from the heavens, And was made flesh from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, And became man, And was crucified under Pontius Pilate, And suffered and was buried, And rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, And ascended into the heavens, And sits at the right hand of the Father, And comes again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Of whose kingdom there shall be no end...*”

Followers of Arianism exist today, including: the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Mormons, the Christian Scientists, the Christadelphians, the Moonies and the Oneness Pentecostals.

Part Two

Biblical Proof of the Deity of Christ

i Passages which refer to Jesus as God

Isaiah 9:6. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

John 1:1. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:18. “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.”

Romans 9:5. “Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.”

Titus 2:13. “...While we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 1:8. “But about the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of Your kingdom.’”

II Peter 1:1. “Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours...”

ii Jesus is and does what only God can be and do

Only God has always existed. Compare **Colossians 1:16-17.** “For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” The same verses show that Jesus is the creator, something only true of God.

God does not change. Compare **Hebrews 13:8.** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Only God can forgive sins. Compare **Mark 2:5**. **“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralysed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”**

In addition:

- Jesus holds the universe together according to Hebrews 1:3, something only God can do.
- Jesus is the judge at the end of time according to II Corinthians 5:10, something which only God can do.
- Jesus gives eternal life according to John 10:28, something only God can do.
- Jesus gives the Holy Spirit according to John 16:7, something only God can do.
- Jesus would raise Himself from the dead according to John 10:17-18, something only God can do.

iii Old Testament links show that Jesus is God

Exodus 3:13-14. **“Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you,” and they ask me, “What is His name?” Then what shall I tell them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I AM has sent me to you.”’”** “I AM” = YHWH = Yahweh (or Jehovah) = “the LORD”.

The Septuagint translates Yahweh as Κύριος (Kurios). This is used scores of times in the New Testament of Jesus. He refers to Himself as “I am” in **John 8:56-59**. **“Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad.’ ‘You are not yet 50 years old,’ the Jews said to Him, ‘and you have seen Abraham!’ ‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am!’ At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.”**

Also John 12:39-41 teaches that Isaiah’s vision of God in Isaiah 6 was actually a vision of Christ.

iv Jesus’ own words show that He is God

John 10:30. **“I and the Father are one.”**

Jesus often refers to Himself as the Son of Man, the divine figure of **Daniel 7:13-14**. **“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”**

Colossians 2:9 sums it up brilliantly. **“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”** There is nothing of God which fails to exist in Jesus Christ.

Part Three

Why this matters so much

i Only someone who is both God and man is good enough to save us

ii We can only know God through Jesus

John 1:1. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

Hebrew 1:1-3. **“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”**

iii Jesus is worthy of infinite worship and enjoyment