

The Deity of Christ

A poll was taken concerning the current beliefs of the Christian Church, specifically the Reverend David Jenkins, a Bishop designate for the Church of England. A footnote from that poll reads, **“a poll has revealed that more than half of the Bishops...share Jenkins’ view that Christians are not obliged to believe Jesus Christ was divine.”** We can’t get into Reverend Jenkins’ brain, but we investigate what the Bible has to say about the deity of Jesus Christ.

1. Why should we believe that Jesus is deity? For starters, Genesis 1:26 uses the word **“us”** in describing the creation of man, and John 1:1-3 says that the **“the Word [Jesus] was God,”** who **“through Him all things were made.”** For those who might disagree with Jesus as being a part of the **“us,”** or being referred to as **“the Word,”** Colossians 1:15, 16 says that **“He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God”** and **“By Him all things were created,”** and in Hebrews 1: 8, God speaks about His Son saying **“Your throne, oh God, will last forever and ever.”**
2. That’s all well and good, but did Jesus, Himself, claim to be God? In John 10:30, Jesus says **“I and the Father are one.”** In Mark 14:61, 62, after being arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin, Jesus was asked by the high priest, **“Are You the Son of the Blessed One [God]?”** Jesus replied, **“I am.”**
3. Did Jesus tell any of His apostles that He was God? When Philip asked Jesus if He would show the Father to the apostles, Jesus gave this answer in John 14:9-11: **“Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father living in me, who is doing His work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”**
4. What about Jesus’ other apostles? Did any of them believe that Jesus was God? In John 20:28, doubting Thomas said these words to Jesus after seeing and touching the wounds on His hands and body after Jesus arose from the dead, **“My Lord and my God!”** In Matthew 16:15:16 Jesus asks Peter, **“Who do you say that I am?”** Peter’s reply was, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”**
5. Why didn’t the other apostles make similar statements about the Deity of Christ? Matthew 16: 20 says, **“Then He [Jesus] warned His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ.”** Did Jesus warn others in a similar manner? In Matthew 8:4, Jesus said these words to a man He had just healed of leprosy, **“See that you don’t tell anyone.”** Why did Jesus not want His apostles and the people that He healed to tell others about His Deity and the thirty-six miracles that he performed)? *The Matthew Henry Commentary* says **“There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak... the great proof of Jesus being the Christ would come on the day of His resurrection.”** *The NIV Study Bible* says that **“Jesus did not want to be considered just as a miracle worker, He didn’t want his teaching ministry hindered by the publicity of His miracles, and He didn’t want His death to come prematurely before He had finished His ministry.”**

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6. The apostle Peter denied even knowing Jesus three times before His crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75) and the other apostles **“scattered”** in fear that they might be crucified with Him (John 16:32). Doesn't that prove that even Jesus' closest “friends” had doubts about His claim of being Deity? These once cowardly individuals, upon seeing the risen Christ face-to-face, went to their deaths believing that Jesus was truly the Son of God who had just been miraculously resurrected from the dead. Their beliefs caused them to be tortured and flogged and to face horrible deaths as described as follows:

<u>Apostle's Name</u>	<u>Method of Execution</u>
Peter	Crucified
Andrew	Crucified
Matthew	Died by the Sword
James, the son of Alphaeus	Crucified
Philip	Crucified
Simon	Crucified
Thaddaeus	Killed by Arrows
James, brother of Jesus	Stoned
Thomas	Spear Thrust
Bartholomew	Crucified
James, son of Zebedee	The Sword

Did these individuals believe that Jesus was Deity? They certainly must have because I find it difficult to believe that they all gave up their lives for a lie!

7. The Old and New Testaments point to Jesus as God, God-the-Father said that Jesus is God, Jesus Himself said that He is God, the Apostles believed Jesus was God and paid with their lives as a result of that belief, and most of the people associated with the many miracles that Jesus performed believed that Jesus was God. Certainly the Jewish people were led to crucify Jesus as a direct result of Jesus' claim of His deity. John 1:10 sums up this last predicament with these words, **“He [Jesus] was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.”** It is my opinion that these English Bishops and their unbelieving members have been duped by the secular society and have fallen into this unbiblical belief that Jesus is not Deity.
8. Finally, there is a dispute as to what was debated and voted on in the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. According to Dan Brown, the author of *The Da Vinci Code*, **“the council endorsed Jesus' deity by “a relatively close vote.”** *The Volume Library*, a respected home reference book that covers the major fields of man's knowledge and study, says that at this Council, “Arianism, the denial of the divinity of Christ, was denounced.” According to *Webster's Dictionary*, “Arianism is a belief that Jesus is not of the same substance as the Father but was created as an agent for creating the world.” Dr. Paul Maier, a graduate from Harvard and Concord Seminary and presently a professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University, clears up this discrepancy by saying that **“The Council of Nicaea did not debate over whether Jesus was divine or only mortal, but whether he was coeternal with the Father.”** How close was the

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“relatively close vote?” Dr. Maier answers that question with these words, **“In fact, the vote was 316 to 2.”** Three hundred and sixteen Biblical experts agreed that Jesus was Deity and coeternal with the Father. Only 2 disagreed. That’s an overwhelming endorsement if there ever was one.