



God the Son

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Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

How would you describe the difference in nature between God the Father and God the Son?

This is a trick question, there is no difference in nature... they are both God and so as such God the Son has been co-eternal with God the Father. Jesus made this clear in His prayer to the Father:

John 17:24 - Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

How did the Apostle John describe God the Son in the beginning of the gospel he wrote?

John 1:1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Here, John stated that God the Son was always with the Father from before the creation of the world and he also affirmed that the Son was God.

How do we know that the term “Word” is a reference to God the Son in John 1:1-2?

From the context, John explains that the Word is a reference to Jesus...

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. ...and Jesus claimed to be the Son of God...

John 10:36 - "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

Why would John refer to God the Son as “the Word”?

The Word is God's revelation of Himself to mankind... likewise, Jesus is also the revelation of God to mankind:

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father;

What does Philippians 2:5-8 have to say about why God the Son came to earth as a man?

Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And

being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

God the Son willingly came to the earth in the form of a human to pay the price that is a consequence of our sin. This was God's plan from the beginning...

Ephesians 1:4 - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Did God the Son abandon His divine nature when He came as a man?

No, God the Son became the only God-Man. John 1:14 says, "the Word became flesh," not "the Word became a man." Philippians 2:5-8 speaks of the humility of God the Son to take the form of a servant, coming in the likeness of a man.

Since Jesus came in the likeness of man, does this mean He was fully human?

Those who had been with Jesus knew he has a physical body...

Matthew 26:12 - For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.

The Old Testament has several references to the “Angel of the Lord” – who is this? Example:

Genesis 22:11 - But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

From the context, we know this to be God Himself where God appeared like an angel. These pre-incarnate appearances of God to the patriarchs are known as theophanies or, more correctly Christophanies since they were all pre-incarnate appearance of the Son of God.

How does 2 Corinthians 4:6 help us to understand that the pre-incarnate appearances of God were of God the Son?

2 Corinthians 4:6 - For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the only visible manifestation of God since God is Spirit. The Apostle John also reinforced this concept:

John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

There are many promises of the coming of the Son of God in the Old Testament, the first is Genesis 3:15... how is it that this verse promises His coming?

Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

In context here, God is talking to Satan and explaining how His Anointed will defeat Satan and that the worst Satan could do to God's Anointed is inflict a temporary injury. This is a veiled reference to the Messiah coming to be crucified but He would rise from the grave, and eventually rule the earth and cast Satan into hell.

Why did God refer to His Anointed as "her Seed" in Genesis 3:15?

This is a reference to the fact that the Messiah would come miraculously, born of a virgin. We know this because the term seed otherwise always referred to the contribution of a man to conception. This prophecy is re-enforced in other places, the best example is...

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Note that the name Immanuel means, "God with us."

What was the significance of God the Son entering the world being born of a virgin?

Certainly this was a fulfillment of prophecy that made it clear His coming was miraculous. I've also heard that this avoided His having a sin nature since this is passed on by the seed of a man. I don't know the biblical case for this but it is logical since Adam was the only person not conceived by the seed of a man.

What does Matthew 1:21 tell us about the name of God the Son?

Matthew 1:21 - And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

This is where the angel Gabriel told Joseph about his betrothed Mary being pregnant with the Son of God. The name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua which means "Jehovah Our Savior."

What does the title of God the Son in John 1:41 tell us about Him?

John 1:41 - He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

The titles Christ in Greek and Messiah in Hebrew mean the same thing: "the Anointed One."

What other names or titles for God the Son come to mind?

Son of Man – This was Jesus' favorite name for Himself in the Gospels because it was a veiled reference to the Messiah from Daniel 7:13.

Others: The Only Begotten Son, The Alpha and Omega, The Ancient of Days, Son of David, Good Shepherd, Great High Priest, Door, True Vine, Chief Cornerstone...

What mystery about God the Son is addressed in 1 Timothy 3:16?

1 Timothy 3:16 - And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

This verse is a reference to the incarnation, mission and resurrection of God the Son. The term incarnation means "in-flesh-ment," to take on a human nature. This was a mystery because God's coming as a man was veiled in the Old Testament though it should have been clear from passages such as Isaiah 9:6.

What important characteristic of God the Son is addressed in 2 Corinthians 5:21?

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Despite God the Son having a human nature, He was without sin.

Why is the characteristic of God the Son referred to in 2 Corinthians 5:21 essential for our salvation?

Jesus as the unique God-Man is the only one who could pay the price for our sins. Since Jesus was without sin, His death in our place is an acceptable sacrifice possible for us. If Jesus had any sin, His death would only serve to atone for His own sin.

1 Corinthians 15:3 - Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures

What key characteristic of God the Son is addressed in John 17:5?

John 17:5 - "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

This refers to the deity of Jesus. Here Jesus is praying to the Father and He is referring to His glorified nature as God the Son.

Why is the characteristic of God the Son referred to in John 17:5 essential for our salvation?

If we are to be saved, only God can save us. Since we know that only God is without sin, this reinforces the concept that Jesus the only one who could atone for our sins.

Back when Mel Gibson's movie on the Passion of Christ came out, there was a controversy on whether it was anti-Semitic, that it would stir up hatred of the Jews for killing Jesus. Was this a valid concern?

No, the concern about the Passion is an argument from ignorance... Anyone who understands the Scriptures would know that Jesus willingly went to the cross to pay the price for our sins. That was His mission and the roles that the Jews and Romans played were in accord with God's will...

John 10:17-18 - My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.

Per John 3:17, what benefit did the death of Christ have for us?

John 3:17 - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The death of Christ offers everlasting life to all who believe that Jesus was who He claimed to be and that His death on the cross paid our penalty for sin.

What other important doctrine about God the Son is addressed by 1 Corinthians 15:14?

1 Corinthians 15:14 - And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

This refers to the resurrection of Christ.

Why is the doctrine about God the Son referred to in 1 Corinthians 15:14 essential for our salvation?

The resurrection of Jesus authenticated that He was who He claimed to be. It also demonstrated to us His plan for us who will give us a glorified body like His when He returns.

Philippians 3:20-21 - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself

What other important doctrine about God the Son is addressed by Mark 16:19?

Mark 16:19 - So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

After His resurrection, Jesus ascended to be at the right hand of God.

What does it mean that Jesus was at the right Hand of God?

This is symbolic of the position of power and authority. This is where we get the term "right-hand-man" from. Someone who is essential

What great promise did Jesus give us about His ascension to the Father in John 14:2-3?

John 14:2-3 - In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus promised that if He left us, He'd go to the Father to make a place for us, and that He would return for us so that we may be with Him forever.

His Present Ministry

We looked at Philippians 2:5-8 where it talked about Jesus coming to earth and humbling Himself to accomplish His mission... what does Philippians 2:9-11 describe that immediately follows?

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 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 Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This passage describes God the Father exalting the Son to His former glory.

Has what is described in Philippians 2:9-11 been accomplished?

It has been accomplished in that Jesus has all authority but not all people recognize this. The part about every tongue confessing that Jesus is Lord will occur at the Great White Throne judgment. At that point, all people will be forced to accept the truth whether they will be spending eternity with Him or not.

What current role of Jesus is described in Hebrews 4:14?

Hebrews 4:14 - Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Jesus is our great High Priest.

What do priests do?

Priests represent people to God and God to people.

Hebrews 4:14 makes it clear that Jesus performs this role for us...

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus

How does Jesus' role of great High Priest differ from that of human high priests that ministered to Israel per Hebrews 7:26-27?

Hebrews 7:26-27 - For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Jesus does not need to atone for His own sin and His sacrifice was good for all-time.

What does Hebrews 7:25 tell us that Jesus is doing for us as great High Priest?

Hebrews 7:25 - Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus makes intercession for His on to God the Father. Jesus represents us before the Father as a lawyer would before a judge...

I John 2:1 - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Why do we need Jesus as our Advocate with the Father?

We still have a sin nature and there is a prosecuting attorney (Satan) who would like to see us separated from God...

Revelation 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Does Jesus have all the attributes of God the Father?

Scripture supports the doctrine that Jesus has all the attributes of God the Father:

- Jesus is omnipotent...
Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Jesus is omniscient...
Matthew 9:4 - Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?
- Jesus is omnipresent...
Matthew 28:20 - teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

There are many more aspects of God the Son than we have time to cover... as the book of John concludes:

John 21:25 - And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

However, one other ministry of Jesus that is noteworthy is His Future Ministry: His serving as King over all...

1 Timothy 6:14-15 - that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords

The Psalms witness to the ministry of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King... the trilogy is in Psalms 22, 23, and 24: Psalm 22 represents the Messiah as the Crucified Prophet, our Suffering Savior. Psalm 23 represents the Messiah as our risen Priest, the Living Shepherd. Psalm 24 represents the Messiah as the reigning King, the exalted Sovereign.