

## **The Deity of Christ**

### First John 1

- I. The Deity of Christ (1 John 1:1-4)
  - A. Deity means Creator or Supreme Being.
  - B. What John is proclaiming here is one of the very pillars of our faith in Jesus.
  - C. What separates those who follow Jesus from the rest of the world is their view and understanding of who He is.
  - D. Jesus asked his disciples to identify him (Matthew 16:13-20) his question in Matthew 16:15 “Who do you say that I am?”
  - E. Scripture clearly articulates the deity of Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1-4, 14)
  
- II. Historical Confessions and Creeds
  - A. The First Council of Nicaea (325 AD)
    - 1. The conflict involved the nature of God the Son in relation to God the Father.
    - 2. On the other side were those who held that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Father (Athanasius)
    - 3. The Council eventually sided with Athanasius and developed a creed or confessions which became known as the Nicene Creed
  - B. The Council of Ephesus (431 AD)
    - a) Some questions concerning the deity of Christ and his relationship to the Father
    - b) Confirmed the final form of the Nicene Creed found today
  
- III. John’s Confessions (vv. 1-4)
  - A. John understood three important facts:
    - 1. He realized that when he heard Jesus speak, he was hearing the voice of God.
    - 2. He realized that when he looked at Jesus, he was looking at God.
    - 3. He realized that when he touched Jesus, he was touching God.
  - B. The central event of history is the advent of eternal life in Jesus Christ.
  - C. The verbs used in these verse vividly defend the reality of the human nature of Christ.

#### IV. Living in the Light (vv. 5-10)

- A. Just like John's gospel, 1 John starts with a contrast between light and darkness
- B. Living in the darkness does three things to a person:
  - 1. You become disoriented and struggle for direction.
  - 2. You become isolated and alone living in darkness.
  - 3. You lose your identity living in the darkness (you forget what you look like).
- C. In the gospel, the incarnate Christ is the light that continues to shine in the darkness of a world that tries to exclude Him.
- D. Because Jesus' death has paid in full the penalty for sin, God grants forgiveness and cleansing as a matter of faithfulness and justice.
- E. God has put a desire for relationship in every one of us.
  - 1. It's a desire that He intended to be met through relationships with other people
  - 2. But most of all, it's a desire ultimately to be met through a relationship with Him.
- F. God is light (v. 5)
  - 1. This description of God emphasizes His attributes of moral purity and omniscience, reinforcing John's focus on our need to confess sin.
  - 2. Likely also in mind is God's revelatory activity.
- G. Forgiveness of sins (v. 7)
  - 1. Hebrews 9:22: "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."
  - 2. The shedding of the blood of Christ was a voluntary substitutionary sacrifice of infinite value.
- H. Confessions of sins (v. 9-10)
  - 1. The free gift of forgiveness carries with it purification from unrighteousness.
  - 2. God accepts us as righteous because He imputes to us the righteousness of Christ.

#### Ligonier Statement of Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new.

Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person. He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe. He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things. Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.