

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Deity of Jesus Study Guide

“Essentially, Christianity is Christ. Take Christ from Christianity, you disembowel it; there is practically nothing left. Christ is the center of Christianity; all else is circumference. We are not concerned primarily to discuss the nature of his philosophy, the value of his system, or the quality of his ethic. Our concern is fundamentally with the character of his person. Who was he?” (John Stott, Basic Christianity)

“It is one thing for the followers of a person to say that He must have been God. It is quite another for that man Himself to say that He is God. The latter severely limits the options of what He truly must have been. After all, being or not being God is not the kind of thing about which one can be casually mistaken. It is ridiculous to think that someone might wind up saying, “Whoops, I’m sorry. I thought I was God, but I guess I’m not. Please forgive me; it was an honest mistake.” (Winifred Courdan, No Doubt About It)

**Lev 24:16 NKJV** - 'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.

### Direct Claims

Jesus claimed to have a special relationship with the Father

John 5:16-18

John 10:30 -33

John 8:19

John 12:45

John 15:23

John 5:23

John 14:1

John 14:9

John 17:5

Isaiah 42:8

Jesus’ “I am” statements

John 6:35

John 8:12

John 8:58

Exodus 3:14

John 18:5-6

John 10:11

Psalm 23:1

John 11:25

John 14:6

Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man

Daniel 7:13-14

Mark 14:60-64

Matthew 26:63-66

**Indirect Claims**Jesus claimed to forgive sins

Mark 2:1-7

Isaiah 43:25

Jeremiah 31:34

Jesus accepted worship

John 20:27-28

Exodus 20:3

Matthew 8:2

Matthew 9:18

Matthew 14:33

Matthew 15:25

Matthew 20:20

Matthew 28:9

Matthew 28:17

Mark 5:6

John 9:38

Jesus claimed to be judge of the world

Matthew 7:22-23

Isaiah 33:22

Matthew 25:31-32

Joel 3:12

John 5:27

Jesus claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28

Jesus claimed to be the giver of life

John 5:21

1 Samuel 2:6

Jesus spoke with His own authority

Matthew 5:21-22

John 13:34

Matthew 24:35

Matthew 5:18

John 12:48

Jesus requested that men pray in his name

John 14:13-14

John 15:7

### **Conclusion**

“First, there is no question that Jesus often accepted and sometimes even encouraged the appellations and attitudes appropriate only for God. Second, Jesus himself unquestionably affirmed by words and actions these characteristics and prerogatives appropriate only to deity. Third, the reaction of those around him manifests that they too understood him to be claiming deity.” (Norman Geisler, Christian Apologetics)

### **Implications**

“Then comes the real shock. Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God. He claims to forgive sins. He says He has always existed. He says He is coming to judge the world at the end of time. Now let us get this clear. Among Pantheists, like the Indians, anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world, who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.

One part of the claim tends to slip past us unnoticed because we have heard it so often that we no longer see what it amounts to. I mean the claim to forgive sins: any sins. Now unless the speaker is God, this is really so preposterous as to be comic. We can all understand how a man forgives offences against himself. You tread on my toes and I forgive you, you steal my money and I forgive you. But what should we make of a man, himself unrobbed and untrodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men’s toes and stealing other men’s money? Asinine fatuity is the kindest description we should give of his conduct. Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin. In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any other character in history. Yet (and this is the strange, significant thing) even His enemies, when they read the Gospels, do not usually get the impression of silliness and conceit. Still less do unprejudiced readers. Christ says that He is ‘humble and meek’ and we believe Him; not noticing that, if He were merely a man, humility and meekness are the very last characteristics we could attribute to some of His sayings.

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either

be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” (CS Lewis, Mere Christianity)

## Three Possibilities About Jesus

