

What About Jesus being just 'a god'?

Nowhere in the Bible is polytheism (belief in more than one god) recommended but rather it is strongly condemned. Polytheism is what results when John 1:1 is incorrectly interpreted to say "and the Word was a god." Exodus 20:3 makes this point very clear: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Additionally, no one but the living and true God is capable of paying for all of the sins of the entire world. It is no accident that the Messiah is called "mighty God" and "everlasting Father" in Isaiah 9:6. Some claim (though not conclusively) that the term 'mighty God' used here is referring to someone other than the 'almighty God' but it can't be said that 'everlasting Father' means something other than Jehovah God. Why is the Messiah called everlasting Father, if Jesus is not identified with God the Father?

In John Chapter 8 it is clear that the Jews who wanted to stone Jesus for blasphemy knew that Jesus was calling himself Almighty God when he referred to himself as the 'I am': "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am**. Then took they up stones to cast at him" (John 8:58, 8:59). Exodus 3:14 gives further proof of this point: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." In John 8:58, Jesus was calling himself the I AM of Exodus 3:14! This point is confirmed in John 10:32-33: "Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; **but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**"

Another strong statement about Christ being God Almighty is found in 1 Timothy 3:16: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Perhaps the most wonderful example of the deity of Jesus Christ is found in John chapter 20: "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.** Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:27-29) Have you been blessed like Thomas was? Do you now see that Jesus is the living and eternal God?

What about the Holy Spirit?

Is the Holy Spirit a force (a thing) or a person? Well, if we look at John chapter 16, we will find our answer:

"Howbeit when **he**, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he** will guide you into all truth: for **he** shall not speak of **himself**; but whatsoever **he** shall hear, that shall **he** speak: and **he** will show you things to come. **He** shall glorify me: for **he** shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." (John 16:13-14)

Note how many times the Holy Spirit is referred to as 'he' (not as 'it') in just those few verses above.

What about the Trinity?

The names of all 3 persons in the Triune Godhead are used in baptism: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19)

1 John 5:7 is a clear reference to the triune Godhead in the King James Version: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**"

The last half of the above verse is missing from the New World Translation and Catholic bibles and other modern translations that use corrupted Greek texts as their source for translation. So those who recognize the God who manifests Himself in three divine persons are in agreement with the Bible and they are not worshipping three separate gods.

Closing remarks:

With our finite minds we will never be able to fully understand an infinite God: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9). If we could fully comprehend God, He would not be God.

Why not seek peace with God today? Ask Him to have mercy on your soul and save you from the wrath to come (see Romans 10:9-13). If you have any doubts about the deity of Jesus Christ, ask God to reveal the truth to you. He did it for Paul on the road to Damascus and He can do it for you. "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, **Who art thou, Lord?** And the Lord said, **I am Jesus** whom thou persecutest" (Acts 9:1-5).

Web site: <http://cominginthecLOUDS.org>
E-mail: mail@cominginthecLOUDS.org

"Whom say ye that I am?"

Jesus Christ - Mark 8:29

The following Bible verses confirm that Jesus Christ has the exact same divine attributes as God Almighty (Jehovah God):

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called Saviour: Isaiah 43:11 (Jehovah), Philippians 3:20, Titus 1:4, Titus 2:13, Titus 3:4-6 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called Judge and have a judgment seat: Judge: Isaiah 33:22 (Jehovah), 2 Timothy 4:1 (Jesus Christ) Judgment seat: Romans 14:10 (God/Jehovah), 2 Corinthians 5:10 (Jesus)

Both God the Father (Jehovah) and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit: John 14:16-17 & 14:26 (Jehovah), John 15:26 & 16:7 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called the Shepherd: Psalms 23:1 (Jehovah), John 10:11 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called the Light: Psalms 27:1 & Micah 7:8 (Jehovah), John 8:12 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called Lord of Lords: Deuteronomy 10:17 (Jehovah), Revelation 17:14, 1 Corinthians 8:6 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called the First and the Last: Isaiah 44:6, Revelation 1:8 (Jehovah), Revelation 1:17-18 & 22:12-13 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are called King: Isaiah 33:22 & 44:6 (Jehovah), Revelation 17:14 (Jesus)

Both Jehovah and Jesus are Creator of all things: Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 3:4, Isaiah 44:24 (Jehovah), Hebrews 1:10, Colossians 1:16-17 (Jesus)

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Notice in the above verse that Jesus said 'I am the way'. He did not say religion is the way or a church is the way or some organization is the way. If Jesus really is God and if He truly is the ONLY Saviour, then we better care about what He preached because the Bible says there are serious eternal consequences for not obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Just What Is The Gospel Of Jesus Christ?

What is the 'Good News' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? After all, that is the most critical article of the Christian faith. The 'Good News' that so many people seem unable to recognize, is that one can know for sure that if one dies, one will have eternal life in glory with the Lord. Our sins separate us from God and we are hopelessly, eternally lost if God does not intervene and save us. He saves by giving a complete pardon for sins so that the individual no longer needs face the wrath of God (eternity in Hell): "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** through him" (Romans 5:9). When God saves us, Christ becomes our substitute. God poured out his wrath on Christ: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, **the just for the unjust**, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Salvation is "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph 2:9). It does not depend on us doing any kind of good works. It is **"not by works** of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5). Paul knew that he and others were saved, that their names were written in the Lamb's book of life (see Revelation 20:15). God refuses to share the glory for salvation with anyone else, and rightly so. No man will ever be able to boast before God (Romans 4:2 & 1 Cor 1:29), that he in some way contributed to his own salvation.

Salvation is all God's undeserved grace and nothing but grace! The works mentioned in James 2:20, 'faith without works is dead', to which many people refer to, to justify feeble attempts to earn or contribute to salvation, pertain to works that are produced by and are the fruit of faith in Christ and are done to show that we are thankful to Christ for purchasing our salvation with His precious blood. Those who use James 2:20 and other verses to argue that no one can know for sure if they are saved until they meet God don't understand what God is saying in Isaiah 64:6: "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags". Our works are valueless in God's eyes with respect to obtaining salvation.

Many religions teach that we need to do good works to get on God's good side so He will save us or reward us more highly than others. If we reject Christ's claims about himself and

the completed work of salvation by his death, burial and resurrection, there is no way to be on God's good side, considering that God the Father's wrath had to be poured out on his Son at Calvary to purchase salvation. Believing Christ's claims and having the desire to serve him in spirit and in truth requires a spiritual transformation that God must perform in our hearts. We must be born from above (see John 3:3). To deny the divine nature of Christ, is to downgrade the price of salvation. "How shall we escape [God's wrath] if we neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3). If we insist on paying for our sins ourselves, it will take all eternity in hell to pay for them (see Romans 4:3-8). That is why it is so important to understand the holiness of God, His hatred of sin, and why only God Himself could pay the price. God's demand far exceeds anything we could ever pay.

What About Hell?

Hell will not go away just because we don't like the thought of it. Many things Jesus said offended people: "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?" (John 6:60-61). Does HELL offend YOU? It offends people who want a god who fits into their idea of fairness... a god who does not take sin very seriously.

It can't be said that if hell exists then God is unloving because God has said: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9) It can't be said that the unsaved are annihilated because otherwise God would not have said: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that **have no more that they can do**. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him" (Luke 12:4-5). It can't be said that a God of love would never send anyone to hell for eternity because God has said: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev 20:15).

People are pleasing satan, not God when they preach that man does not deserve to go to hell. That's probably exactly what satan thinks about his own coming judgment for his rebellion against God! Preaching that the wicked are annihilated (cease to exist after death) is one of the biggest insults to Jesus Christ. No one needs a saviour if they are only annihilated. A saviour is only needed if we need to be saved from something, namely, the eternal punishment for our sins. If you think that hell is too severe a punishment then you just don't realize what it cost God at Calvary to be

the saviour of the world nor do you realize how much He hates sin and can allow absolutely no one into His presence unless their sins have been separated from them as far as the east is from the west (Psa 103:12). Jesus Christ is the only one who can cleanse us from all sin - by his precious blood (1 John 1:7). The Bible clearly teaches that God is not only a God of love but also of judgment and wrath... "For **the LORD thy God is a consuming fire**" (Deut 4:24) ... "God is angry with the wicked every day." (Psa 7:11) ... "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the **wrath of God**." (Rev 14:19) ... "Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to **flee from the wrath to come**?" (Luke 3:7)

What About Heaven?

Some people claim that we will not end up in heaven but back on the existing earth where peace has been restored. This idea is in direct conflict with scripture: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (Rev 21:1). This verse does not refer to 'the world system'. If it was referring to a world system versus the literal earth, why would it say 'no more sea'?

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Pet 3:10). We can't argue 'why would God destroy heaven, his home?' because God lives in the third heaven (beyond our physical realm), not the second heaven (outer space) or the first heaven (the sky above the earth - our atmosphere).

The 'third heaven' that God lives in was mentioned by Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:2 - "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven." God is planning to destroy the original two physical heavens (first and second heavens). Some people claim that only 144,000 individuals are going to heaven. Please note what Jesus said in Matthew 23:13. It is a stern warning to not only the Pharisees of the first century, but to people who claim that they and others cannot go to heaven: "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."