

Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15)

“The Deity of Christ”

Answer the following false positions:

1. ¹“There are some brethren who in effect deny the humanity of Christ by contending that Jesus had not only the possession but also unlimited access to and exercise of the divine attributes. ²Brother Welch made it clear that any position which manifested such a view was error and must be opposed as heresy” (Jeff Asher; *Faith and Facts*; April 1994).

2. “The issue is: Do the scriptures teach that Christ possessed all the powers of God in the flesh? ³Some have taken the position that Christ possessed all the powers of God as a man. I deny this” (Wayne Greeson; *Faith & Facts*, October 1990).

3. “I Tim. 2:5 says, ‘There is one mediator between God and man, (the revised versions say) himself, man Christ Jesus.’ ⁴Ladies and gentlemen, Jesus Christ did not give up divinity for just 33 years. He gave it up for all time. All time. It wasn’t just temporarily as Superman stepped out of the phone booth. He gave it up for all time. He became one of us, ladies and gentlemen. He has been raised by the right hand of God. He has been given a name that is above every name, but he is not equal with God again where he was before. You and I should appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus for us. He is the Son of God, but he became one of us in all points like us. “Heb. 10:12-13, ‘This man after he had offered one sacrifice for sin sat down on the right hand of God from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.’ (Could spend a lot time talking about premillennialism from that passage). Verse 21 says ‘having an high priest over the house of God.’ ⁵A high priest had to be a man. He is still our high priest – himself” (John Welch; Sermon Script; September 19, 1989; Indianapolis, IN).

4. ⁶“Notice that Jesus prays to One whom he calls ‘the only true God.’ He points to God’s superior position when he continues: ‘So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I had alongside you before the world was.’ (John 17:5) ⁷Since Jesus prayed to God requesting to be alongside God, how could Jesus at the same time be ‘the only true God’” (http://www.watchtower.org/e/20050422/article_02.htm)?

1. Jesus was a man (**Philippians 2:5-8**), but He never gave up the inherent characteristics of deity (**Matthew 1:23** and **Colossians 2:8-9**).

- Jesus knew the thoughts of men (**Matthew 9:3-4**, **Luke 6:7-8**, and **Luke 11:15-17**).
- As God, Jesus could forgive sins on earth (**Mark 2:6-10**).
- Jesus taught that only God could be worshipped (**Matthew 4:10**). Man or angels cannot be worshipped (**Acts 10:25-26** and **Revelation 22:8-9**). Jesus accepted worship as God (**Matthew 8:2**, **Matthew 9:18**, **Matthew 14:33**, **Matthew 28:9**, **Mark 5:6**, **Luke 24:52**, and **John 9:35-38**).
- How could Jesus call the temple His house if He were not God (**Matthew 21:12-13**; cf. **Nehemiah 10:39**)?

2. Then Welch and Asher oppose the Scriptures (**Isaiah 9:6, Acts 20:28, Romans 9:5, and Titus 2:13**).

3. There is an order of authority in Heaven and on earth (**I Corinthians 11:3**). However, Christ never ceased to be or act as God within his role of authority. Christ had all of the powers of God, within the realm of His role while on earth. To deny this Greeson then must deny the Scriptures (**I Timothy 3:16; cf. Isaiah 42:8 and John 13:31**).

4. Welch is in flat denial of God's word in his statement (**Revelation 1:8 and Hebrews 1:8-12; cf. John 8:23-24**). Jesus accepted man calling Him God (**John 20:28-31**).

5. If Christ were a high priest simply because He was made in the image of man and Christ had to continue to be a man like the priest before Him, the God is ignorant in what He had penned by man about the priesthood of His Son (**Hebrews 7:11; 23-8:4**). Truly, the ignorance is from Welch, not God.

6. The JW's reference **John 17:3** to try and twist this passage into Jesus denying His deity of which He had already claimed (**John 8:58; cf. Exodus 3:14**). Did Jesus contradict Himself here with what He said in **John 10:30**? The Jews understood that Christ was saying He was God (**John 10:31-33**). No, it is the JW's twist that is a contradiction. There is no denial that there are roles of authority in the Godhead. However, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are one (**I John 5:7**). As we've already seen, the Scriptures call Jesus God. To deny this is to deny the truth (**John 1:1-5; 14**).

7. Jesus is the true God because the Scriptures say so (**I John 5:20**). That does not deny the deity of the Father or the Spirit, but to deny the deity of Christ is to deny the truth. Again, there are three persons in Heaven that are God.

Looking at all of the Scriptures presented in this study, it is undeniable that Jesus is, was, and always will be GOD (**Revelation 1:8**).