

## **Week Four: The Doctrine of Jesus Christ**

### **Part One: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...**

- I. Jesus is the lens through which we are to see the world**
  - a. John's bifurcations (1John 2:20-23, 4:1-4,15, 5:9-12, 2John 1:7-11, John 3:36, 6:53-54)
    - i. Other verses: 1Corinthians 12:1-3, Matthew 10:32-33
  - b. The dividing line: what you think about Jesus
  - c. A Christian's susceptibility to make other divisions more prominent
  - d. Religion Apart from Jesus (Ezekiel 5:6,16:47)
  - e. The key question: Is Jesus here? (1Corinthians 2:2, 3:11)
  
- II. Jesus is the lens through which we are to see God**
  - a. The fullness of God
    - i. What do we see on the cross?
      - 1. The wrath of God (Romans 1:18, 1Thessalonians 1:10, Isaiah 53:4-9)
      - 2. The love of God (John 3:16, Romans 8:32)
    - ii. Jesus keeps us within these bounds
  - b. The Deity of Christ
    - i. The prominent/hidden doctrine
    - ii. Cults play off the ambiguity
    - iii. The Unprepared Christian vs. the Well-Trained Cultist:  
No Contest
    - iv. Widely believed, inadequately defended

### **Part Two: Cults' Claims/Challenges**

- I. Jesus was a created being.**
  - a. The word "Begotten", used in Psalm 2:7, and John 3:16, means Jesus was a created being (Mormons)

- b. The personification of wisdom in Proverbs 8:22-31 is actually Jesus, and this person is referred to as one "brought forth as the first of his works". (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- c. John 1:1 is communicating that Jesus was pre-existed only in God's foreknowledge (The Way International)
- d. Colossians 1:15-17 speaks of Jesus as being the firstborn, meaning he was created first (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- e. Revelation 3:14 indicates that Jesus was created - particularly if read in the King James or NAS (Jehovah's Witnesses)

**II. Jesus was not equal to the Father.**

- a. Jesus was ignorant of the time of His second coming (Matthew 24:36), meaning he was not God
- b. When Jesus says that the Father is "greater than I" in John 14:28, he is acknowledging that he is not equal to the Father
- c. If God is the "head" of Jesus, as mentioned in 1Corinthians 11:3, Jesus is not God (Jehovah's Witnesses)

**III. Jesus and the apostles denied his deity.**

- a. John 4:23 demonstrates that only the Father is to be worshipped (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- b. When Jesus refers to himself as the "Son of God", as in John 10:36, he is denying deity (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- c. 1 Cor. 8:6 shows that Jesus is not God Almighty (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- d. Christ is referred to as the "mediator" between God and man in 1Timothy 2:5-6, meaning that Christ is not God (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- e. Jesus' use of the Son of Man shows that he is denying deity
- f. Jesus rebukes the rich young ruler for calling Him "good", showing the denial of deity
- g. John 20:17 says that Jesus had a God, meaning that he was not God (Jehovah's Witnesses)

**IV. Jesus was not fully God while on earth.**

- a. John 1:14 means that Jesus became *exclusively* flesh (Worldwide Church of God)
- b. Phil. 2:7 teaches that Christ emptied himself of deity while on earth