

Theme: Question 24: Why must the Redeemer be truly, fully God?  
The Redeemer must be truly, fully God so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value, He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin, and overcome Satan and death.

## I. Athanasius & *On the Incarnation of the Word*

- A. Arius denies the Deity of Christ - he was created
- B. "There was a time when he was not"
- C. The Council of Nicea declared Arius a heretic
- D. Athanasius later wrote *On the Incarnation of the Word*
- E. A major battle in the Church - but why? Is it important?
- F. We have seen the Redeemer must be human - why must He be God?
- G. Theme statement

## II. Jesus Is Truly and Fully God

- A. Paul refers to Jesus' blood as the blood of God!  
Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of **the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.** Acts 20:28
  - 1. What an arresting phrase - God's own blood??!!
  - 2. Some scribes changed it to 'church of the Lord'!
  - 3. But the blood that redeemed us is the blood of Jesus, Who is truly and fully God!
  - 4. God bought us with His own blood!!

## B. The New Testament teaches the Deity of Christ in many places

### 1. A few from the "First Chapters"

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:3–4

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. Colossians 1:15–16

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word... <sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. Hebrews 1:3, 8

- 2. All of these texts - and many others! - clearly teach that Jesus is truly and fully God!
- 3. His Deity has many implications - including that it was necessary for our redemption to be accomplished by Him!

### III. Only the God-Man Can Deal With Our Sin

#### A. Obedience and suffering of infinite value

Question 24: Why must the Redeemer be truly, fully God? The Redeemer must be truly, fully God **so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value**, He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin, and overcome Satan and death.

1. We have seen that Jesus had to be truly Human so that He could obey and suffer in our place
2. But the debt we owed was infinite because God Himself is infinite!
3. Thus the Redeemer's work in our place - both obedience and suffering - had to be of infinite value.
4. Redemption was costly - above human ability to pay  
No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him — <sup>8</sup> the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough — <sup>9</sup> that he should live on forever and not see decay. Psalm 49:7–9
  - a. No human can redeem the life of another or give the ransom to God for another
  - b. No human can redeem because the cost is too high - it is infinite!
  - c. Our Redeemer had to be human, but not merely human, for no human could pay the debt we owed!
5. God Himself would have to work Redemption  
Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. <sup>16</sup> He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. Isaiah 59:15–16

- a. God looked - no human was able to redeem His people!
  - b. No human can redeem because the cost is too high - it is infinite!
  - c. So God declared He would have to work salvation
6. Because God is Infinite, our rebellion and treason bring infinite debt, and only the God-Man can pay the infinite price!

#### B. Bearing the full wrath of God

Question 24: Why must the Redeemer be truly, fully God? The Redeemer must be truly, fully God so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value, **He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin**, and overcome Satan and death.

1. We covered this in Question 23
2. God is perfect in holiness, and His holy justice must and will punish all sin to the utmost.
3. This is the heart of the Old Testament sacrificial system including Passover, the Day of Atonement, and all the sin offerings.
4. It is graphically described in Isaiah 53 where the Servant of the Lord (Jesus) is fully punished, pierced, and crushed to bear the wrath of God in our place.
5. No mere human could ever bear the full fury of the wrath of God against sin - but the God-Man can and did!
6. He has drained the cup of the wrath of God - for us!
7. God bought us - with His own blood!

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of **the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.** Acts 20:28

### C. Overcoming Satan and Death

Question 24: Why must the Redeemer be truly, fully God? The Redeemer must be truly, fully God so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value, He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin, **and overcome Satan and death.**

1. The ransom was paid to God - NOT TO SATAN!!!
2. But we were held in slavery to Satan and Death, and Jesus broke these powers as part of His Redeeming work!

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:13–15

- a. We were dead in sin but God made us alive - in Christ!
- b. He also fulfilled the law and its loud thundering against us, nailing it to the Cross so that it is paid in full!  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame  
"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"
- c. He also disarmed the powers and authorities and triumphed over them - by the Cross!

- d. Jesus came to destroy the work of Satan and free us from sin, Satan, and death

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8

- D. Jesus the God-Man has borne God's full wrath against our sin and treason, paid our infinite debt, and defeated Satan, sin, and death - all for us!

## IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the importance of the Deity of Christ?

1. The Da Vinci Code syndrome to deny Jesus' Deity
2. Christians sometimes act like the Deity of Christ and the Trinity are not really important - but this is a critical error!
3. The Deity of Christ is not just a philosophical concept - it is essential to the work of Jesus!
4. Only the God-Man could stand in our place, fulfill our call, and bear the wrath we were due!
5. It is literally a matter of ETERNAL life and death!
6. Never be quick to throw aside historic Christian belief - these truths were protected for a reason!

- B. Do I respond to all Jesus did for me?

1. In the Incarnation Jesus humbled Himself so that I might be exalted, the Son of God became human so that I might become a child of God, He bore the wrath of God so that I might bear the blessing of God, he died that I might live, He was raised that I might overcome death!
2. This is not mere philosophy - it should prompt worship!

3. Jesus has lived in my place, bore the wrath of God, drinking the cup to its dregs, and at the same time disarmed and defeated Satan and death!
4. The mighty God-Man has done all of this for me!
5. Have I responded in faith, receiving this great redemption?
6. Do I respond in worship - daily and weekly?
7. Think on our Great Redemption - and worship joyfully!

#### C. The Table of Redemption

1. Sometimes we come to this Table in sorrow for our sins - and that is appropriate
2. But it is also appropriate to come in joy - for all Christ has done for us!
3. Today let us lift our eyes to Jesus, our Perfect God-Man Redeemer, and respond with joy!

### God Our Redeemer

Acts 20:28; Colossians 2:13-15  
January 30, 2022  
Communion  
Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Redemption; Christology; Deity of Christ; atonement; Satan and demons

The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:13–15