



## **We Believe - In the Deity of Christ**

### **Key idea:**

Christians believe that Jesus is the One True God, our Creator and Redeemer, Who became human for us and for our salvation.

### **Key text:**

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. <sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

### **Key points:**

1. Jesus is eternally God - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).
2. Jesus is the Creator - All things were made through Him; nothing exists apart from His creative work.
3. Jesus became fully human - "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

4. Jesus had to be both God and human to save us - Only the God-man could fulfill humanity's obligations, bear infinite wrath against sin, and accomplish complete redemption by overcoming Satan and death.
5. This truth is for our salvation - The deity of Christ is not abstract theology but the foundation of our hope.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read John 1:1-5 and Genesis 1:1-3 together. What connections do you see between these passages? Why does John begin his Gospel this way?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is "the Word"? How does this help us understand His role in creation and revelation?
3. In verses 10-13, John describes how people responded to Jesus. What different responses does he mention? Why do you think people failed to recognize Him?
4. The teaching and the Creed emphasize that Jesus is "begotten, not made." Why is this distinction so important? What's at stake if we get this wrong?
5. How does understanding Jesus as both fully God and fully human help you better understand salvation? What could a "really good person" or "exalted creation" not accomplish that only the God-man could?
6. The Nicene Creed says Jesus came "for us and for our salvation." How does knowing that God Himself took on flesh to save you (not just sending a messenger) impact your view of God's love?
7. The teaching asked: "Do I see why Jesus had to be truly, fully God?" How would you answer this question for yourself? How does this truth affect your daily life?
8. Have you ever struggled with feeling like God is distant or keeping you at arm's length? How does the incarnation—God becoming human—speak to those feelings?
9. Bret mentioned that many people grow up in church but never personally embrace their need for salvation. Can you relate to this? What was your journey to understanding your personal need for Jesus?
10. When you come to the Lord's Table (communion), what do you typically think about? How might reflecting on Jesus as the God-man enrich your experience?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Memorize John 1:1, 14 - Write these verses on a card and review them daily, meditating on what it means that the eternal Word became flesh.

2. Read the Nicene Creed daily - Use it as a prayer, slowly reading through each phrase and thanking God for who He is and what He has done.
3. Share the Gospel - Think of one person who doesn't know Jesus or who has a confused understanding of who He is. Pray for an opportunity to share the truth that Jesus is God who became human to save us.
4. Journal your response - Write out your answer to these questions:
  - A) What does it mean to me personally that Jesus is truly God?
  - B) How does knowing Jesus became human change how I view my struggles and suffering?
  - C) What would be different about my life if Jesus were only a great teacher rather than God Himself?
5. Prepare for Christmas differently - As we approach the Christmas season, commit to keeping the incarnation central. What's one way you can focus on the marvel that "God became human for us and for our salvation" amid all the other activities?
6. Listen to the new song "[This is the God We Love](#)" (which is based on the Nicene Creed).