

# **Convincing the Gainsayers**

## ***The Deity of Jesus Christ***

*Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. - Titus 1:9*



**Convincing the Gainsayers**  
*The Deity of Jesus Christ*

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## **Preface**

When someone knocks on my door and begins to talk about religion, I tell them there are only two things worth talking about: (1) who saves us and (2) how we are saved. All other topics are meaningless if these two questions are answered wrong. Moreover, other doctrinal errors are often corrected once these two are answered correctly. In this booklet, I am sharing with you a composition of discussions I have had with people who deny that Jesus is God.

Though controversy over doctrine is with other people, we are engaged in a spiritual warfare. The real battle is not with flesh and blood, but with wickedness in high places. Our responsibility is to give answers (1Peter 3:15), to persuade (2Corinthians 5:11), and to convince people of truth (Titus 1:9). The better prepared we are, the better we fulfill our responsibility. Fortunately for sinners, God's Spirit goes beyond our best attempts to minister to people by convicting men of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11).

Because our goal is to reconcile men with God (2Corinthians 5:18-20), we do well to heed Paul's admonition in 2Timothy 2:25, "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." Be kind but firm, be gentle as a dove but wise as a serpent, and be prepared.

The following dialogue is a single conversation from beginning to end, however, I divided it into topics to help you find and focus on the issue being debated. The bold paragraphs are my comments. The plain text is from the gainsayers.

If you memorize the verses in this booklet and learn how to explain their meaning, you will be very persuasive and ready to convince the sayers.



## Contents

Which Jesus? .....	9
The Son of God is God .....	10
Staying on the subject of the Son of God meaning Jesus is God .....	12
The Only Begotten Son of God .....	14
Jesus is God the Savior .....	14
The Holy Ghost is God .....	15
Three persons, but one God (Trinity) .....	17
Comments on Jesus and trinity .....	21
Additional verses showing the deity of Jesus Christ. ....	22
Index .....	27
Other books, pamphlets, study guides .....	28

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth  
a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which  
being interpreted is, God with us. -Matthew 1:23*



# **The Deity of Jesus Christ**

## **Which Jesus?**

Hello, we are conducting a survey today. Would you mind answering a few questions?

**I have time.**

How do you feel about the morality in the world?

**There's not much left.**

Do you worry about common crimes happening to you?

**Yes.**

Did you know that the Bible tells us how to make this a better world to live in?

**Yes, I know that.**

Do you believe in the Bible?

**Yes. By the way, what religious group do you represent?**

We represent ourselves and Jesus Christ. Do you attend a church?

**Yes. Which Jesus Christ do you represent?**

There is only one.

**But in the Bible, Jesus warned that false prophets would come claiming to be Him or to know Him. That is why I am asking you which Jesus Christ you represent.**

We represent the Christ of the Bible. We are Christians.

We have literature here that we would like to share with you.

NOTE: A quick glance through the literature revealed nothing about the true identity of Jesus Christ. It did imply that salvation was by living a good life. However, its emphasis was on establishing a peaceful life on earth. Before I finished looking at the last page, the stranger asked,

Would you be interested in learning more about the Bible?

### **The Son of God is God**

**Sure I would. But the only things worth learning about have to do with salvation, specifically, who saves us and how He saves us. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God?**

He is the Son of God.

**He is that too. But being the Son of God makes Him God. Do you believe that He is God?**

He is not God. He is the Son of God.

**Being the Son of God makes Him God. John 5:18 says, "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." Likewise, in John 10:36, Jesus points out that being the Son of God is the same as being God: "Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?" The Jews were threatening to stone Him during this incident because Jesus claimed to be God (John 10:33). They understood what He was saying. Moreover, John 19:7 shows us that being the Son of God is indeed the same as being God, and for this reason, Jesus was accused of blasphemy and worthy of the death penalty. During Jesus' trial, "The Jews answered..., We have a law,**

**and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God” (John 19:7).**

Jesus is not claiming to be God in John 10:34-35. He was explaining to the Jews that men are called gods. This simply means that they are important people, rulers and leaders of great esteem. Jesus was simply saying that He was important.

**But the Jews had no law that required or allowed killing someone because he claimed to be important. The Jews knew that Jesus was claiming to be God. They wanted to stone Him for blasphemy because He made Himself to be God (John 10:33; John 5:18).**

The Jews misunderstood His meaning, that is why He explained that the Scriptures call men gods. He was explaining to them that He was not worthy of death because He was not claiming to be God.

**Actually, Jesus was saying that if men are called gods, how much more He (who is the Son of God) should be acknowledged as God because He is the Son of God. To clarify that He was saying He was God, He referred to His works, and the Jews tried to kill Him. The Jews did not misunderstand Him. Even the apostle John explained the meaning of Jesus’ statement by saying, “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” (John 5:18 ). This is John’s, not the Jew’s, commentary to explain the meaning of Jesus’s statement.**

Jesus is not the God.

**John 8:58 shows that on another occasion, they had the same response after Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” He used the divine title “I am” from the burning bush encounter in Exodus to indicate that He was God.**

That passage should read, "I have been."

**That is not true. The verb is first person, singular, present, indicative. It was correctly translated.**

### **Staying on the subject of the Son of God meaning Jesus is God**

But to say that Jesus is God, is to have more than one God. That is wrong. There is only one God.

**Are we done talking about Jesus being God because He is the Son of God?**

NOTE: I insist on sticking to the topic of the Son of God and related verses to reveal the fact that they are contradicting Scripture and an obvious conclusion. They will try to avoid the subject and move on to other verses or topics.

There is only one God.

**I agree, and the Bible says in John 5:18 and John 10:36 that being the Son of God is the same as being God. You told me that Jesus was the Son of God.**

That would be polytheism.

**Polytheism is another topic. I want to conclude our discussion about Jesus being God because He is the Son of God.**

But He cannot be God because that would mean there is more than one God.

**Not so. If the Bible calls Jesus God and says that there is only one God, then Jesus is that one God. You are avoiding the obvious conclusion that being the Son of God is the same as being God according to John 10:36.**

That conclusion is impossible.

**What do you think John 10:36 means?**

It only means that He is the Son of God. He did not claim to be God.

**You say He is not claiming to be God, but the Jews who heard Him understood Him to be saying He was God in John 10:33. Further, the apostle John stated that He meant that He was God (John 5:18).**

That is what they wanted His statement to mean so they could kill Him.

**So then you agree that Jesus' claim can be understood to mean that He is God?**

They twisted the meaning of His words to mean that He was saying He was God.

**So then, His statement could be construed to mean that He is God. If this was an incorrect understanding, it seems strange that Jesus would not correct their false perception and deny that He was God. Instead, He gave further evidence in John 10:37-38 to support His claim that He was God. And it is also strange that John would be inspired to write a false commentary on the meaning of Jesus' statement.**

The Jews believed Him to be only a normal person who was claiming to be the Son of God. In order to kill Him, they needed to accuse Him of claiming to be God.

**It is noteworthy that they said in John 10:33 that He blasphemed because His claim to be the Son of God was the same as claiming to be God.**

No. It is impossible for Him to be God.

**That is another issue. I am just focused on what His statement means when He says He is the Son of God. You may not accept the idea that Jesus is God, but you cannot deny that the Scriptures indicate that He is.**

## **The Only Begotten Son of God**

Being the son of God does not make Him God. Everyone who is born of God is a child or son of God.

**According to John 3:16, Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. He is uniquely the Son of God and different from the rest of us who have been born into the family of God.**

He is said to be the “only begotten” because He was chosen to be the anointed one of God through whom we are saved. It is a unique position.

**It is more than that. Matthew 1:20 says that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Ghost not of a man. The meaning of this is clear in Matthew 1:23 which says, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Jesus is the only begotten Son of God because He is the only one conceived by the Holy Ghost and therefore God.**

It is impossible to be both God and born of God.

NOTE: Again this objection is raised to avoid the obvious conclusion of Scripture, and the conversation goes in circles. I stay on this point only to emphasize that they do not have a plausible explanation for the verses and in fact believe contrary to their statements. The following dialogue continues the conversation into other topics on the trinity.

## **Jesus is God the Savior**

**You will have to argue against the Scriptures on that one.**

**In addition to saying that He is God, Matthew 1:21 and 25 say that His name is *Jesus* because He is the Savior of the world. But only God can save us. That is why Second Peter 1:1 calls Him: “God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” First Timothy 2:3 says, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our**

**Saviour. “And Jude 1:25 says, “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”**

These verses are referring to the two persons God the Father and Jesus Christ the Savior.

**First Timothy 2:3 and Jude 1:25 refer to God our Savior. Jesus is the Savior.**

Jesus is the Savior only through God the Father. God is the Savior.

**According to Isaiah 43:11, there is no other Savior but God the Father: “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.” If Jesus is the Savior, as Matthew 1:21-25 says, then Jesus must be God because there cannot be another.**

### **The Holy Ghost is God**

Being conceived of the Holy Ghost does not make Him God.

**Matthew 1:20-23 says that it does. No one else has ever been conceived of the Holy Ghost which is synonymous with being begotten of God. You admit that Jesus is the Son of God, yet He was conceived by the Holy Ghost. That would make the Holy Ghost God.**

Now you are saying the Holy Ghost is God. You have three Gods.

**Only one. But because Jesus is called the Son of God and was conceived by the Holy Ghost, the only conclusion one can come to is that the Holy Ghost is God.**

The Holy Ghost is simply the Spirit of God. He is like a force. This is how God fulfills His work and accomplishes things.

**The Holy Ghost does conduct the business of the Father on earth, however, He is not a force. He is a person.**

Acts 5:1-4 indicates this clearly by saying, “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”

Two things can be observed in this passage. First, it is impossible to lie to a force. You can only lie to a person, in this case, to the Holy Ghost. Second, lying to the Holy Ghost is synonymous with lying to God. Therefore, the Holy Ghost must be God.

You are saying that Jesus and the Holy Ghost are both God. You believe in more than one God.

**How do you explain lying to the Holy Ghost being the same as lying to God?**

Lying to the Holy Ghost is lying to the Father because it is His Spirit.

**Are you still saying that the Holy Ghost is the Father’s force or are you now saying that they are the same person?**

Both statements are true.

**When you lie to me, you are not lying to the energy in the muscles of my arms. You are lying to me as a person.**

**How do you explain lying to the Holy Ghost as being the same as lying to God?**

Because it says so.

**But the question is: do you lie to a person or to energy?**

Lying to God’s Spirit is lying to God’s person.

**So, you are saying that it is possible to lie to the energy in my muscles?**

That is different.

**But you said, that the Holy Ghost is the force of God whereby He does things. Is the Holy Ghost God or**



### **His spiritual force and energy?**

I am saying that the Holy Ghost cannot be God. That would make more than one God.

NOTE: When the only objections do not address the verses you are dealing with, it is obvious they are at a loss for explanation. My objective is to show that they are failing to explain the verses and are denying their true meaning.

**O.K. You can live with lying to energy. However, I think that it is very strange because in no other circumstances do we lie to electricity, sun light, or muscle energy.**

### **Three persons, but one God (Trinity)**

Well, your belief in three gods is strange because the Bible says there is only one God.

**The Bible says that all three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are God. By definition, God is three persons. There are not less, and there are not more.**

That is polytheism.

**No. Polytheism is when there are more than one God.**

**Also, in polytheism, each god is different from the others. The Bible says, that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are God. God is three persons, not less than three and not more than three. To say that Jesus or the Holy Ghost are not God is to corrupt the Biblical definition of God. All three persons are the one God.**

But you say Jesus is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, and the Father is God. That makes three Gods.

**No. The Bible says in Isaiah 45:5 "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me." Therefore, the one, true God is and includes the three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

How can three be one? That is a contradiction.

**First, the Biblical definition of one God requires the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The lack of one or the inclusion of more would not be the Biblical God. Second, these three persons are each God because they are identical in every way. There is no difference between them. Each one is infinitely loving, just, and righteous. Each one feels, thinks, and concludes exactly the same. Each one is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnificient. They are identical in every way and cannot be distinguished except for the roles they assumed for the redemption of man. When Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father in John 14:9, Jesus said, “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” Because they are identical, to know one, is to know that other, and to see one is to see the other.**

But, you are saying that they are all three Gods of the same kind.

**No. I am saying that they are (all three) the one, true God and that each is identical to the other. There is one God, and this one God is three identical persons.**

If they are one God, why are they distinguished as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost? They must be different and that would make them three different gods.

**No. They are identical, and together they are one God. They are distinguished by name because of the different roles they have assumed for the redemption of man. Assuming different roles does not mean they possess different qualities. The Father’s role preserves the Holy, judgment qualities of God. The Son’s role is to identify with sinful man and to be his Savior. The Holy Ghost’s role is to convict men and to lead them to the Savior. These different roles allow**

**them to maintain the full integrity of the Godhead while working among sinful men.**

Saying that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost have different roles makes them different.

**Having different roles does not make them different in qualities. For example, I assume different roles as a father, as a son, as a husband, as a teacher, and as a student. Yet in spite of the different roles I assume, I am the same person. Likewise, different roles do not make the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost different.**

You say the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are identical, but Jesus was a man and therefore not omnipresent. Further, Jesus said of Himself that He did not know the day nor the hour of His return. That means He is not omniscient either. This shows that Jesus is not the same as the Father, and, therefore, He is not God.

**Philippians 2:5-8 explains why Jesus' role restricts Him saying, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." First, Jesus did not think it robbery to be equal with God because He was God. He could only rob the position of God if He was not God and the position did not belong to Him. Second, Jesus' role as a man required that He become a servant. As Hebrews 2:9 explains, Jesus "was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." To fulfill His role, He surrendered the personal**

**exercise of some of His qualities to be exercised through the Father and the Holy Ghost. Thus, Jesus is omniscient and omnipresent by means of the Father and the Holy Ghost acting on His behalf.**

You are admitting that Jesus is less than God and different from the Father.

**No. As First Timothy 3:16 puts it, “God was manifest in the flesh.” Though the role of being man is less lofty than being God, Jesus was nonetheless and no less God. John 1:1 and 14 tell us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” The Bible is very clear that Jesus is God in the flesh. Becoming man required self-imposed limitations on Himself, but Jesus is still God and no less than God. Further, the only difference between Him and the Father is His role as a man. Again, I refer you to John 14:9 where Jesus pointed out that seeing Him was the same as seeing the Father. Regardless which person of the godhead became a man, the result would have been the same. Because they are identical, seeing one as a man is the same as seeing the other.**

End of conversation.

## **Comments on Jesus and trinity**

People get hung up about God being three persons. But, the important thing to remember is to accept the statements of the Bible, and then pray for wisdom to put it all together. As the above conversation shows, the argument against Jesus being God contradicts Scripture that says He is God. Likewise, arguing for polytheism contradicts Scripture. Therefore, the only reasonable explanation for the three in one doctrine is that the definition of the one, true God requires and includes the three persons known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

On occasion, I have been asked how Jesus could be God if He was praying to God in the Garden of Gethsemane. The answer to this is that Jesus and the Father both refer to each other as God. In Hebrews 1:8, God the Father says to “the Son ... Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

**Additional verses showing the deity of Jesus Christ.  
This list is by no means exhaustive.**

**A four point argument for Jesus being God the Savior.**

**1. Jesus is the Savior.**

- Luke 2:11, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
- Philippians 3:20, “ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Second Timothy 1:10, “ But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

**2. God is the Savior.**

- Luke 1:47, “ And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”
- Titus 1:3, “But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour.”
- First Timothy 4:10, “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

**3. There is only one Savior**

- Isaiah 43:11, “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”

**4. Therefore, Jesus is God, the Savior.**

## **A four point argument for Jesus being God the Shepherd**

### **1. Jesus is the Shepherd.**

-John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

-Hebrews 13:20, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant."

### **2. God is the Shepherd.**

-Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

### **3. There is one Shepherd.**

-John 10:16, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

### **4. Therefore, Jesus is God, the Shepherd.**

## **Jesus claims to be equal with God**

-In John 10:30-31, Jesus says "I and my Father are one." (Notice in verse 31, the Jews wanted to stone Him for claiming to be one with the Father.)

-In John 5:23, Jesus says, "all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father."

## **Jesus claims God's title of "I am" for Himself.**

-John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (The response of the Jews in verse 59 shows that they understood His claim to be God)

-Exodus 3:14, “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.”

### **Jesus forgives sin.**

Mark 2:5 says, “When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?”

### **Jesus knows the Father as well as the Father knows Him.**

In John 10:15, Jesus says “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father.” Jesus must be God to have perfect knowledge of God the Father.

### **To know Jesus is to know God the Father.**

In John 14:8-9, after Philip asks Jesus to show him the Father, “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”

### **Jesus accepts worship as God.**

-In John 20:28 Thomas realizes who Jesus is and says, “My Lord and my God.” (Notice that Jesus accepts Thomas’ acknowledgment and commends Thomas rather rebukes him.)

-In Matthew 8:2, “...there came a leper and worshipped him.”

-In John 9:38, a healed blind man said to Jesus, “Lord, I



believe. And he worshipped him.”

-Philippians 2:10-11 says, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

-Hebrews 1:6 records that God the Father Himself commands to “...let all the angels of God worship him.”

\*Jesus would only accept worship if He was, indeed, God because in Exodus 20:5 God says, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.” And in Exodus 34:14, God says, “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

### **Jesus is almighty God.**

There can be no mistake about it. The Bible says plainly that Jesus is God. Isaiah 9:6 says of Jesus, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”



# **Index**

Acts 5:1-4	16	John 10:34-35	11
		John 10:36	12
Exodus 20:5	25	John 10:37-38	13
Exodus 3:14	24	John 14:8-9	24
Exodus 34:14	25	John 14:9	18
		John 19:7	10
First Timothy 2:3	14	John 20:28	24
First Timothy 3:16	20	John 3:16	14
First Timothy 4:10	22	John 5:18	10, 11, 12
		John 5:23	23
Hebrews 1:6	25	John 8:58	11, 23
Hebrews 1:8	21	John 9:38	24
Hebrews 13:20	23	Jude 1:25	15
Hebrews 2:9	19		
Holy Ghost	15	Luke 1:47	22
		Luke 2:11	22
Isaiah 43:11	22	Lying to the Holy Ghost	16
Isaiah 45:5	17		
Isaiah 9:6	25	Mark 2:5	24
		Matthew 1:20	14
Jesus		Matthew 1:20-23	15
accepts worship	24	Matthew 1:21 & 25	14
equal to God	23	Matthew 1:23	14
forgives sin	24	Matthew 8:2	24
"I am"	23		
infinite knowledge	24	Only Begotten	14
same as Father	24		
the almighty God	25	Philippians 2:10-11	25
the Savior	22	Philippians 2:5-8	19
the Shepherd	23	Philippians 3:20	22
John 1:1 & 14	20	Psalm 23:1	23
John 10:11	23		
John 10:15	24	Second Peter 1:1	14
John 10:16	23	Second Timothy 1:10	22
John 10:30-31	23		
John 10:33	10, 11, 13	Titus 1:3	22
		Trinity	17

# **Other books, pamphlets, study guides**

## **Bible Concepts in Six Easy Lessons**

(Use in homes, Sunday school, or for correspondence)

- Knowing God Personally
- Designed to be spiritual
- The Reason for Human Suffering and Death
- God is the Answer
- You can be Saved
- The Born Again Experience

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- Follow-up Lessons for New Christians

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