



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 2.7.3 – The Doctrine of God

### The Father Is God and the Son Is God

In the Bible, the term “God” usually refers either to the Triune God or to God the Father. For example, the apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians: **“For us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live”** (1 Corinthians 8:6).

There have been many false teachers in history and many today who deny that Jesus is God. For example, the Muslims teach that Jesus is a prophet of God, but not God Himself. For this reason, it is very important that we become convinced by the Holy Spirit through the words of Scripture that Jesus, the Son of God, is true God.

Chapters 7-12 of the book of Isaiah are sometimes called the Immanuel book because in these chapters the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah, who is given the name Immanuel. Immanuel means “God with us.” For example, we read in Isaiah 7:14: **“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”** When Jesus was then born of the virgin Mary, Matthew explains: **“All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated ‘God with us.’”** (Matthew 1:22-23). And Isaiah 9:6 says: **“Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,”** and then he says **“His name will be called...Mighty God.”**

John the Baptist was God’s messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. **“John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me””** (John 1:15). John meant that while He was six months older than Jesus by birth and in human age, at the same time, Jesus existed before John, because Jesus is eternal God.

When Jesus was born, a created angel appeared to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem and said to them: **“There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”** (Luke 2:11). By calling the baby Jesus **“Lord,”** this angel was saying that Jesus is God. Even the evil angels (or demons) had to confess that Jesus is God. **“They cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’”** (Matthew 8:29).

God the Father Himself spoke with an audible human voice and declared that Jesus was the Son of God. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River, the voice of the Father said: **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”** (Matthew 3:17). When Jesus’ appearance was changed on the high mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John, the voice of the Father again said: **“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”** (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus taught us to call God **“our Father”** (Matthew 6:9) in our prayers to God, but Jesus Himself never called God **“our Father.”** He considered God to be His Father in a very special sense, and therefore referred to Him as **“Father”** or **“My Father”** (Matthew 11:25-27). The Jewish leaders understood what Jesus meant, for we read: **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God”** (John 5:18). On the night before He was crucified, Jesus prayed: **“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was”** (John 17:5). Who can speak

like that to God except One who is Himself God, with all the eternal glory of God? Finally, when Jesus was on trial before the Jewish high council, the high priest put Jesus under oath and asked Him: **“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”** Jesus answered truthfully: **“I am”** (Mark 14:61-62).

### Questions

---

1. Why is it important to study what the scriptures say about the nature of Christ?
2. Which groups teach that Jesus is not true God?
3. What is revealed about Jesus in his baptism and transfiguration?
4. How do we know that the Jews understood Jesus’ teaching that he was true God?
5. Why was it so significant that Jesus answered the high priest, “I am”?