



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

A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 2.7.3.1 – The Doctrine of God

Jesus Is God – He Has the Attributes of God

Jesus is loving, eternal, immutable, and perfect. Therefore, He is God.

The words and works of Jesus on earth abundantly demonstrate His love. Of course, the greatest proof of his love is his death in our place on the cross. It is written: **“Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor”** (Ephesians 5:2).

Jesus reveals that he is eternal and unchangeable in His prayer to His Father on the night before His death: **“O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was”** (John 17:5). The Old Testament had prophesized that **“His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom”** (Daniel 7:27), and that His throne **“shall be established forever”** (2 Samuel 7:16). The epistle to the Hebrews declares: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”** (Hebrews 13:8). Most amazingly, when His enemies told Him that He could not have seen, Jesus responded: **“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM”** (John 8:58).

The apostle John affirmed the perfection when he wrote: **“In Him there is no sin”** (1 John 3:5).

Jesus is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent. Therefore, He is God.

The Gospel of John clearly teaches the omnipotence (almighty power) of Jesus. John’s Gospel begins with this statement: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men”** (John 1:1-4). We know that the Word is Jesus, the Son of God, because John says a few verses later: **“the Word became flesh”** (John 1:14). The Son of God created the world, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is the Author of life, **“for as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself”** (John 5:26). Jesus proved that He has life in Himself when He raised Himself from the dead. He said: **“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”** (John 10:17-18). Jesus had not only the power to raise Himself from the dead, but the power to raise others. He said: **“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will”** (John 5:21). This means Jesus gives both physical life and spiritual life.

Not only did Jesus create the world, but He also sustains it from day to day. The apostle Paul wrote: **“By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist”** (Colossians 1:16-17). This means that all things are held together by Him. The letter to the Hebrews speaks of Him as **“upholding all things by the word of His power”** (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus Himself spoke of His work of sustaining all things when He said: **“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working”** (John 5:17).

The Gospel of John also teaches the omniscience (knowledge) of Jesus: **“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man”** (John 2:23-25). After His

resurrection from the dead, Jesus asked Peter three times about his loyalty to Jesus, since Peter had denied Jesus three times on the night of Jesus' arrest. Peter replied: **"Lord, You know all things; You know that I love you"** (John 21:17). Because of His divine omniscience, Jesus was able to foretell the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple before it happened. He told His disciples: **"Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down"** (Mark 13:2). Jesus then told His disciples more details of what would happen in 70 A.D. when the Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem and its temple.

We see the omnipresence of Jesus in His promise: **"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"** (Matthew 18:20). After His resurrection, Jesus assured His disciples: **"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"** (Matthew 28:20). Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper according to Jesus' instructions, the body and blood of Christ are present and are received by us as we eat the bread and drink the wine. For the apostle Paul taught the Christians at Corinth: **"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"** (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Jesus is wise, holy, merciful, gracious. Therefore, He is God.

Paul taught the wisdom of Jesus when he wrote that it was Jesus **"in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"** (Colossians 2:3). This should not be surprising, **"for it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) all the fullness should dwell"** (Colossians 1:19), **"for in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"** (Colossians 2:9).

Jesus Himself taught His holiness and His righteousness when He challenged His enemies: **"Which of you convicts Me of sin?"** (John 8:46). Jesus was the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins the world because He was personally holy and sinless. The apostle Peter wrote: **"You were not redeemed with corruptible things ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"** (1 Peter 1:18-19). The letter to the Hebrews informs us that Jesus **"was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin"** (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus' miracles show that He is merciful. Peter summarized Jesus ministry by saying that He **"went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil"** (Acts 10:38).

God's grace, His undeserved love, is shown us by what Jesus has done. Jesus came to our world. He lived a perfect life in our place and died the death we deserved to die. Jesus voluntarily lived and died for us, as was foretold: **"In the scroll of the book it is written of Me. I delight to do Your will, O My God, and Your law is within My heart"** (Psalm 40:7-8). Even though He knew how great and painful His suffering would be, Jesus prayed to His Father in Gethsemane: **"Not My will, but Yours, be done"** (Luke 22:42). The apostle Paul wrote: **"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for Your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich"** (2 Corinthians 8:9). **"In Him (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"** (Ephesians 1:7).

Questions

1. Why is it so important for our salvation that Jesus is God?
2. What attributes of God are also found in Jesus?
3. What do these attributes prove about Jesus?
4. Which passage showing that Jesus is eternal would be most meaningful for the people living in your area?
5. What did Jesus mean when He said His Father was working, and He was working?
6. Why can we be sure that Jesus' predictions concerning the future will come true?
7. In what way is Jesus present with us as both God and man?
8. Why is it important for us that Jesus was holy all His life?
9. What passages show that Jesus is merciful and gracious?