



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

## A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 6.1.1 – The Doctrine of Jesus, Son of God, Messiah (Christology)

### Jesus Has the Attributes of God

Not only is Jesus directly called God in the sacred Scriptures, but, as we saw in lesson 2.10.1, the Bible also attributes to Jesus various attributes that apply only to God. Therefore, Jesus must be God. Because this truth is so important, we will review some of these attributes again.

Only God is eternal – without beginning and without end. Jesus is eternal, for Paul says of Him: **“He is before all things”** (Colossians 1:17). John says: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God”** (John 1:1-2). That is why John the Baptist said of Jesus: **“It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me... for He was before me”** (John 1:27, 30). When the Jewish leaders ridiculed Jesus’ claim that Abraham saw His day because Jesus was not yet fifty years old, Jesus countered with the astounding reply: **“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM”** (John 8:58). In Jesus’ glorious appearance to John on the island of Patmos He said: **“Behold, I am alive forevermore”** (Revelation 1:18).

Only God is omniscient, all-knowing. Jesus is omniscient, for Paul says of Him: **“In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (Colossians 2:3). In speaking of Jesus’ second coming, Paul says: **“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts”** (1 Corinthians 4:5). The Gospel of John likewise testifies: **“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: 24-25). Peter therefore was not exaggerating when he said to Jesus after His resurrection: **“Lord, You know all things”** (John 21:17).

Only God is omnipotent, all-powerful. Jesus is omnipotent, for He said to His disciples after His resurrection: **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”** (Matthew 28:18). Jesus’ power includes the power to give life to Himself after dying and the power to give eternal life to others as well: **“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). **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand”** (John 10:27-28).

Only God is omnipresent, everywhere present. Jesus is omnipresent, for He said to His disciples after His resurrection: **“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”** (Matthew 28:20). Earlier, He had made them this promise: **“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them”** (Matthew 18:20).

Only God is unchangeable. Jesus is unchangeable, for it is written: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”** (Hebrews 13:8).

Only God is alive in Himself. Jesus Himself said: **“As the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself”** (John 5:26).

In a later lesson we will consider passages that seem to say that Jesus did not have these attributes of God during His earthly life. Such apparent contradictions will be explained by what the Bible teaches us concerning the two states of Jesus’ existence: the state of humiliation and the state of exaltation.

## Questions

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1. What attributes of God does the Bible attribute to Jesus?
2. What does John mean when he says that Jesus is before and after?
3. What kind of knowledge does Jesus have about every human being?
4. In what way will Jesus show Himself all-powerful at the end?
5. What promises did Jesus make to His disciples about His presence?
6. Why is Jesus' unchangeability a comforting teaching for Christians?
7. What does it mean to have life in one's self?