



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

A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics)
Lesson 6.1.3 – The Doctrine of Jesus, Son of God, Messiah (Christology)

Jesus Is Given the Honor of God

After Jesus' resurrection from the dead His followers recognized Him to be God and gave Him the same honor as the Father. Jesus Himself said that the Father **"has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father"** (John 5:22-23). In His prayer to the Father on the night before He died, Jesus claimed that He had glory with the Father before the world was made: **"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was"** (John 17:5).

Therefore it is not surprising that the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi: **"God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Philippians 2:9-11). Notice that the Father is glorified when glory is given to the Son.

The letter to the Hebrews says that Psalm 97:7 refers to Jesus when it calls on the angels of God to worship Him: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him"** (Hebrews 1:6). In the vision given to the apostle John on the island of Patmos, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was worshiped by the four living creatures (who represent all of God's creation), and by the twenty-four elders (who represent God's people of all ages). They all **"fell down before the Lamb" and "sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals'"** (Revelation 5:8-9). The living creatures and the elders were then joined by **"many angels around the throne...saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing'"** (Revelation 5:11-12).

There is no doubt that Christians since that time have considered Jesus to be God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to be worshiped and praised and honored as God. The hymns and creeds and council decisions from the very beginning have declared Jesus to be God. The *Apostles' Creed* declares belief in *"Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord."* Because of the heresy of Arius and his followers, the *Nicene Creed* (325 and 381 A.D.) goes into greater detail, declaring belief in *"one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made."* One of the early songs of the Church was the *Te Deum Laudamus*, in which Jesus is addressed as "the King of glory" and "the everlasting Son of the Father." The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) confessed Jesus to be "truly God." The *Athanasian Creed* describes Jesus as *"the Son uncreated," "the Son infinite," "the Son eternal," "the Son almighty,"* and says: *"The Son is God," "the Son is Lord," "The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone," "our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages," "perfect God," "equal to the Father with respect to His divinity."*¹

¹ McCain, P. T. (Ed.). (2005). *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (p. 17). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

Martin Luther and his associates agreed with these ancient confessions, hymns, and council decisions and affirmed all of them to be true. Today we also joyfully confess that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Lord, the Son of God, truly God together with the Father and Holy Spirit.

Questions

1. How did Jesus Himself claim to be worthy of being honored as God?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is called Lord?
3. How was Jesus honored in the vision given to the apostle John?
4. Which creeds, songs, and council decisions declared Jesus to be God?
5. What did Martin Luther and his associates think of these ancient writings about Jesus?
6. What do the leaders in your part of the world say about Jesus?