

September 2008

Maintaining the Deity of Christ

The battle for the truth has to be waged on many different fronts. Some of these come and go at different seasons, so far as the fury of the battle is concerned. One area, however, where the battle always rages, is regarding the deity of Christ. The reason for this is quite evident: *the deity of Christ is so crucial*. It is very striking that, again and again, this is a fundamental point at which all ‘Christian deviations’, sects, cults and false religions go wrong. Either the Lord Jesus Christ’s deity is outrightly denied by them, or else it is in some sense ‘reduced’.

We need, therefore, to be forewarned and forearmed, in order to give a good account of the truth, to the glory of Christ himself, whenever we find his deity being challenged – on our doorsteps, in the media, in books, in private conversations, from the pulpit, or however it might arise. A clear biblical defence of this doctrine can be mounted in several ways. Here, to help us, is a sequence of five statements which it is worth keeping in our mind, along with appropriate Scripture proofs which can be gathered from a Bible concordance.

(1) *The Lord Jesus Christ possesses the names and titles of God*. He is Jehovah, God; he says ‘I am alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last’; he is Lord, saviour, redeemer, king, shepherd, judge, husband; he is ‘the Lord our righteousness’, light, rock, creator, the giver of life and the one who forgives sins.

(2) *The Lord Jesus Christ possesses the attributes of God*. The three great ‘omnis’ belong to him (omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient); his is divine purity, holiness and perfection; he is changeless and eternal (‘the same yesterday, and today, and forever’, ‘whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting’).

(3) *The Lord Jesus Christ makes concrete claims to be God*. Most notable are his seven ‘I am’ claims, ‘I am’ being the divine name. He also says, ‘he that hath seen me hath seen the Father’ and ‘that all should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father’ (namely, as God).

(4) *The Lord Jesus Christ works the glorious works of God*. His miracles are the standing and irrefutable evidence of this.

(5) *The Lord Jesus Christ receives the worship that belongs to God*. To him, Thomas said, ‘My Lord and my God’; angels worship him, as does the whole of heaven, for ‘to him (belong) glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen’.

It is our solemn duty, our high privilege, and it should be our holy joy, to ‘stand up, stand up for Jesus’. Let us seek the grace, wisdom and help of the Holy Spirit in maintaining and defending the deity of Christ in the face of ‘all-comers’, remembering that those who honour him, he himself will honour.