

Belgic Confession 10 – Christ: His Deity and Eternity

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **There are so many proofs of the Christ's Deity 神性 in the Old and New Testaments that it would take deliberate 故意 blindness not to see them.** There are proofs of Jesus' Deity from Genesis through Revelation. And you will see some of them today. But like all doctrines 教义, in and of themselves, they are not sufficient 充足. You have to see the implication 含义 and then the application of those doctrines. Those doctrines must influence your life...influence how you feel, speak, and think. Doctrines influence your outlook...even your emotions. And you will see both the doctrine and the implications today as we study the deity of Christ.

Our headings are:

Christ is God – His Eternity

Christ is God – His Activity

Our goals are: That you will remove any **doubts about the Deity of Christ**, that you will **appreciate Christ's work for you more**, and that **you will be an excited witness of his Deity to the world**.

We believe that Jesus Christ according to His divine 神圣 nature is the only begotten Son of God, begotten from eternity, not made, nor created (for then He would be a creature), but co-essential and co-eternal 共同本质和共同永恒 with the Father, the very image of his substance and the effulgence 光辉 of his glory, equal unto Him in all things. He is the Son of God, not only from the time that He assumed our nature but from all eternity, as these testimonies, when compared together, teach us. Moses says that God created the world; and St. John says that all things were made by that Word which he calls God. The apostle 使徒 says that God made the world by His Son; likewise, that God created all things by Jesus Christ. Therefore it must needs follow that He who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ, did exist at that time when all things were created by Him. Therefore the prophet Micah says: His movements are from of old, from everlasting. And the apostle: He hath neither beginning of days nor end of life. He therefore is that true, eternal, and almighty God whom we invoke 吁求, worship, and serve.

Christ is God – His Eternity

We believe that Jesus Christ according to His divine nature is the only begotten Son of God, **begotten** from eternity, not made, nor created (for then He would be a creature),

1. Jesus is the only begotten (monogaynes) Son of God, begotten from eternity. This Greek word "monogaynes" is unique - used only for special circumstances. He was not created. He was not adopted.

2. Now let us look at the proof that "this only begotten Son" is truly God.

but **co-essential and co-eternal with the Father**, the very **image of his substance** and the effulgence (shine brilliantly) of his glory,

3. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is co-essential and co-eternal with his Father.

a. Jesus is treated as the very essence of God.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and **shall call His name Immanuel.**

Immanuel means: God with us. There is no "daylight" between the two. When Jesus is present, God is present! Isn't it a comfort it is to know that God is with you? He knows your loneliness and pain in the stillness of the night.

b. Now look at Jesus' own testimony regarding himself.

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

Either Jesus was a lunatic 疯子, a liar, or the Lord! The Bible shows that he is the Lord. That was his claim.

c. Jesus is co-eternal with his Father. Jesus himself spoke and said that he existed long before he was incarnated.

John 7:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the **glory which I had with You before the world was.**

Even the Prophet and Apostles spoke of Jesus' eternity.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, **Whose goings forth are from**

of old, From everlasting."

Isaiah 9: 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

It would have been the height of arrogance to call one who was not God, God.

Romans 9:5 ...Christ came, who is over all, **the eternally blessed God.** Amen.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word... **He was in the beginning with God.**

To be sure, even the Patriarchs recognized Jesus as God in his "God-appearances" (theophanies) in the Old Testament...like when Abraham calling Jesus, God. These are some good passages to raise with your Jehovah Witnesses friends when they come to your door. (So keep these notes.) They will try to fight against 1 or 2 of these, but it is impossible for them to argue properly against a preponderance 优势 of the evidence.

equal unto Him in all things. He is the Son of God, not only from the time that He assumed our nature but from all eternity, as these testimonies, when compared together, teach us

4. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is equal to his Father in all things. Jesus did not shy away from confessing that he was equal to the Father. And he does this directly and by implication.

John 5:23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

Matthew 28: 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

He spoke this so clearly that that it became the basis of his execution. The Jews knew that the phrase "Son of God" applied to the 2nd person of the Trinity. No one was executed for claiming to be a "man" or an "angel."

John 5:18 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.**

Furthermore, every attribute of the God's is equally Christ's attributes including his omniscience 无所不知. For example: Jesus knew where Nathaniel was before he saw him. John 1:48. Consider

John 2:25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for **He knew what was in man.**

If Christ were not God, then Christianity would be like every other religion that requires the action of man to find favor with God... Christianity would be a "do" religion instead of a "done" religion. Only Christianity teaches that God is not impressed by any of man's actions.

5. The eternal God with all the characteristic and evidence of God...is your Savior. What a phenomenon! What preciousness! What privilege! What comfort! But also, what a reminder that you must serve him with passion and piety. His love gives you passion. His character makes you want to be pious 虔.

Christ is God – His Activity

Moses says that God created the world; and St. John says that all things were made by that Word which he calls God. The apostle says that God made the world by His Son; likewise, that God created all things by Jesus Christ. Therefore it must needs follow that He who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ, did exist at that time when all things were created by Him. Therefore the prophet Micah says: His movements are from of old, from everlasting. And the apostle: He hath neither beginning of days nor end of life. He therefore is that true, eternal, and almighty God whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

1. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, made and keeps all things. The Bible teaches that God made all things (Genesis 1:1), and since the Bible teaches that Christ made all things, Christ must be God. His activity proves his Deity. (Col 1:15) John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Only the Creator is able to keep what he has created.

Hebrews 1:2-3 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged 清除 our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Do you see how special you are in Christ...that he, your Creator, would provide everything you need for your body on a continuing basis! This also means that if you or a loved one dies, both your body and soul remain in the hand of the Lord. He is simply moving you from an earthly dimension to a heavenly dimension.

2. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, accepts worship and honor which only God must do. This is clear evidence of his Deity.

John 5:23 "that all should **honor the Son just as they honor the Father.**

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**"

Do you ever notice how you would feel uncomfortable if people praise you for something if you fully realize that you were not that good...or you just helped a little? Yet, this was not the case with Jesus! He fully knew what he did and what he would do and he said so and took the appropriate credit!

Question: Do you sometimes worship as if God were one person and that Jesus were somehow like a helper? If so, learn to worship with a full spiritual view of his glorious greatness and his manifold goodness, knowing he is fully God – a fact proven by his words and actions!

3. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, forgives sins – a thing only God can do.

Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said..."Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

You might say you forgive someone who wronged you...but it is not the same as the forgiveness you have in Jesus Christ. You are simply saying that you will no longer hold something against someone who wronged you but the basis of that forgiveness is Christ's blood. When Jesus forgives sins, he has the view of his sacrifice on the cross!

4. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is the Judge of the world – a thing only God can do.

John 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, **but has committed all judgment to the Son,**

As your judge, he intimately 密切 knows what he has done for you, so he is guaranteed to set you free from condemnation 非难. And his Father always listens to him and does what he asks. If Christ were not your judge, who would represent you before the Father? But there is another aspect of this that you must remember: Jesus will condemn the wicked if they don't have the Gospel...a Gospel that you can take to them. And the wicked are the ones for whom you must regularly pray that they might be saved from Judge Jesus' condemnation.

5. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is your Savior – a thing only God can do. No man can fix his problem of sin by himself.

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,** and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 8:23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; **for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

Notice that he did not say that the one who believes "might" have eternal life...some time in the future! No, he said that the believer knows this fact and experiences it in his heart!

Moslems view Jesus as a prophet 先知. Eastern religious view Jesus as an enlightened teacher. Western people today view Jesus as a moralist 道德 who gave rules for good living. Liberals see Jesus as a revolutionary who spoke for the "little" man. Others view Jesus as the "ideal" man, who is worth copying. Those who hold these views and do not see Jesus as Christ the Eternal Son of God, will die in their sins and be condemned by him.

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God – without beginning or end. Jesus Christ is equal to the Father in every way. His testimony and his activities clearly prove his Deity. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He is worshipped and he accepts worship. He forgives sins. He will judge the world. If Christ were not God, you could not be saved from your sins, for you would not be able to face the anger of his Father. God's anger would be too much for an ordinary man to bear. If you do not believe that Christ is God, you are not a Christian...you cannot be a Christian without believing this.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You **must confess that Jesus is the eternal Son of God for your own salvation**, for only God could bear the punishment of man's sins and relieve him of the suffering.

2. Since Christ is the eternal Son of God **you will want to learn more about him so you could worship him better.**

3. Since Christ is the eternal Son of God by his eternity and his activity, you must **rest in that confidence and not worry about the future.**

4. Since Christ is the eternal Son of God you must announce it to the world so that the world might also learn and confess this. Without this knowledge, the world can never come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Don't try to make the Gospel palatable 美味. Don't look for similarities and say: "We are similar to other religions, let's join." Point out the Deity of Christ...man's only hope. Help the Moslem and Jew to see that they are not worshipping the same God as we.

Finally, since Jesus is the eternal Son of God, every knee will bow to him one day and confess that he is the only way to God. Now you have that opportunity of doing it and receiving his blessings. At another time it may be too late. Will you be late?