

Theme: Christians believe that Jesus is the One True God, our Creator and Redeemer, Who became human for us and for our salvation.

I. The Council of Nicea in 325AD

- A. Arius says of Jesus - "There is a time when he was not."
- B. A firestorm of controversy ensues - Is Jesus God?
- C. The Council of Nicea was called in 325 to discuss this
- D. They produced the Nicene Creed; most influential Creed
- E. A series on the 1700th anniversary of the Council/Creed
- F. AH - Why do we have Creeds? Should we?

II. Jesus Is the One True God

- A. Jesus, the Word, is the One True God
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1–2
 - 1. The Word (Jesus) was with God and was God (v1)
 - 2. Jesus existed in the beginning - before creation (v2)
 - 3. There is no time when He was not!
 - 4. This is a clear claim that Jesus is fully and truly God
 - 5. This is a clear reference to Genesis 1:1
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
 - a. In the beginning - this is before the creation of space, matter, and time.
 - b. At this point, only God exists!
 - c. But John says in that beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God!

- 6. One can not begin to understand Jesus and His Work until it is grasped that Jesus is God Himself. This is the fundamental fact about Jesus - He is One with the One True God.

- B. Jesus is the One Through Whom Creation exists
Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:3-4
 - 1. Jesus is the Creator - everything that was created came through Him
 - 2. He is the very Word and is the source of all creation
 - 3. His Life is the source of light and life for creation
 - 4. This is a reference to Genesis 1:3 and Psalm 33:6
And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:3
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. Psalm 33:6
 - a. God's Word is the source of creation.
 - b. From the Word of God comes the light that is necessary for creation and life to exist.
 - c. This is not even the sun and other stars - they come later!
 - d. Jesus, the Word, is the Source of light and life
 - e. Creation comes from the Word of the Lord - Jesus
 - 5. Jesus is the Creator of everything that has ever been created - therefore He is God, not the first creation of God!

C. The Deity of Christ in the Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through Him all things were made....

1. The Creed rightly states that Jesus is truly and fully God - not a "sub-god" or the first creation of God.
2. They stress this with several key words and phrases
 - a. The only Son of God - not like humans
 - b. Begotten before all ages - He is eternal
 - c. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God - He is God!
 - d. He is begotten, not made/created - He is the Creator, not the creation
 - e. He is of the same substance/Being as the Father - not a separate Being/substance/essence
3. They used all of these terms to leave no wiggle room - Jesus is truly and fully God!

III. Jesus Became Human To Save Us

A. Jesus, the Word became human, but is still God

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

1. Jesus, the Word, became flesh and lived among us

2. He did not "appear" to be human - He took our actual flesh and nature to Himself.
3. But He is still fully God; we see God's glory in Him!
4. He is the grace and truth of God in human form!
5. He is the True God Who became Human to reveal God to us!
No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1:18
 - a. God the One and Only - the Only Begotten of God (or only Begotten Son - MSS differ)
 - b. Jesus became human to make God known to us
6. This is why the Creed uses the phrase 'Begotten, not made' - it is the Bible's language!

B. Jesus became human for us and for our salvation

In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.... ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:4-5, 9-12)

1. Jesus is Life, but we dwell in the land of death!
2. Jesus is the Light, but we are in the darkness of sin
3. Jesus came to the world so that we might receive Him and become God's children.
4. He did not come to start a new religion or philosophical school but for us and for our salvation!

5. This is the main testimony John gives of Jesus
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29
6. But to redeem us, Jesus had to be truly and fully both God and Man!
7. The Redeemer must be truly human so that He might fulfill humanity's obligations to God by completely obeying God's Law and suffering and dying for human disobedience.
8. The Redeemer must be truly, fully God so that His obedience and suffering would be of infinite value, He would be able to bear the full wrath of God against sin, and overcome Satan and death.
9. This is why Jesus the Word, Who is truly God, took our flesh and became truly human - there was no other way for us to be saved!
10. He became human for us and for our salvation!

C. Christ as Savior in the Nicene Creed

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,

and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory

to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

1. He became human for us and for our salvation
2. The incarnation is necessary for salvation
3. The events of His life, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension and seat at the Father's side are necessary for our salvation!
4. He will come again to finish our salvation!
5. This is all to make clear that we are saved by the God-Man Jesus Christ - for only One Who is truly and fully God and truly and fully man can be our mediator and Savior!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do you see why Jesus had to be truly, fully God?

1. This is no mere philosophical nicety - if He is not God, sin is not conquered, Satan is not vanquished, death is not defeated.
2. A great man or an exalted creation can not save - only the God Man coming to bear sin and defeat our enemies can save us.
3. This is the true faith - God has come to save us from our self-made disaster.

B. Do you trust in Jesus, the God-Man Who has come to save us?

1. Knowing the fact and trusting are not the same thing
2. God calls us to active trusting in Jesus and His work to save us.
3. Throughout this series, we will see what "we believe" - but it must be what "I believe"!

4. Do you acknowledge your need to be saved?
5. Do you admit that Jesus is the God-Man and thus can save you from your sin?
6. Are you actively trusting Him to save you from your sin?

C. God's Table of Salvation

1. This Table represents the story of salvation
2. Bread - the Incarnation - God has become Man for us and for our salvation
3. Cup - Jesus has paid for our salvation, and has overcome Satan and death for us
4. Come to God's Table of salvation!
5. Nicene Creed and Table

We Believe - In the Deity of Christ

John 1:1-18

October 26, 2025

Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching keywords: Deity of Christ; Christology; salvation and deliverance; Word of God; Tradition and Traditionalism

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ² Corinthians 13:14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. John 1:1-18