

Jesus: The Only Begotten Son of God

The foundation of Christian belief is the confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. This truth is affirmed in *Acts 8:37*, where it is stated, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." This declaration consists of two fundamental truths:

1. Jesus is the Christ – He fulfills the roles of Prophet, Priest, and King.
2. Jesus is the Son of God – He is God manifested in the flesh.

1 John 4:15 confirms the importance of this confession: "*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*" This reveals that faith in Christ's divine nature is essential for a relationship with God.

The Son of God

One of the most well-known verses in Scripture, *John 3:16,18*, highlights the significance of Jesus as God's only begotten Son: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life... He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

The term "only begotten" comes from the Greek word *Monogenes*, meaning the only one of His kind. Unlike created beings, Jesus shares the divine nature of God. He is unique in His identity as the Son who possesses God's very essence. As *Colossians 2:9* states: "*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*"

The Only Begotten Son

Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was not just a title but an assertion of His divine identity. This was a major reason for the opposition He faced from religious leaders. *John 5:18* describes their reaction: "*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.*" By calling God His Father, Jesus equated Himself with God. This claim is further reinforced in *John 8:58*, where Jesus declared: "*Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.*"

This statement directly references *Exodus 3:14*, where God identifies Himself as "I AM." Jesus was not merely claiming a prophetic role but affirming His eternal existence as God.

Jesus: God in the Flesh

The doctrine of the incarnation (that God became a man) is central to Christian faith. *1 Timothy 3:16* describes this as part of the great mystery that is the Gospel: "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*"

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, affirmed His divinity after the resurrection by declaring, "My Lord and my God!" (*John 20:28*). This confession is crucial because our salvation depends on Jesus being God in the flesh.

The Importance of Jesus' Divinity

If Jesus were not God in the flesh, several key aspects of Christianity would collapse:

1. He could not put away the Old Covenant (*Hebrews 9:16-17*). The Old Covenant(s) could only be put away by the death of the One who made them. God. Only by God dying (and this could only happen if God were a man) could a New Covenant be established.
2. He could not mediate between us and God (*Galatians 3:20, 1 Timothy 2:5*). The Bible repeatedly tells us that to mediate one must be an equal to both parties. Only by being both God and Man can Jesus mediate on our behalf.
3. He could not stand before God on our behalf (*Hebrews 9:24-28*). The Bible repeatedly states that no man can stand before God (*John 1:17*, etc.). Only by being God can Jesus be in the presence of the Father.
4. He could not be the Christ (*Isaiah 9:6*). The Prophets made it clear that the Messiah would be God Himself. If Jesus were not God, He cannot be the Christ.

The only way Jesus could be the Messiah and Savior is if He is both fully God and fully man.

Believe That Jesus Is "I Am"

Jesus made it clear that faith in His divine identity is necessary for salvation. In *John 8:24*, He warned: "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." To be saved, one must believe that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God. His divine identity is the foundation of Christian faith, hope, and eternal life.