

# Deity of Jesus

Jesus has been depicted as a mythical character, a spiritual guru, a visionary, and a charismatic leader who broke off from the Jewish system to create a new sect. The identity and deity of Jesus has been challenged since the first century. During early Christianity, the gnostic teaching was permeating itself in the church. They denied the incarnation of Christ (deity of Jesus) and His resurrection. In a sense, they would elevate their own knowledge at the expense of Christ. They self-proclaimed to have special knowledge that lead to moral excellence. However, it was detrimental to the faith of Christians because false teaching leads to false living and a person who denies the deity of Jesus destroys their own faith in Christ.

The Apostle John, the one whom Jesus loved, was a great defender for the deity of Jesus. He would call those who denied Christ, “anti-Christ’s” and “liars” (1Jn 2:4, 2:22, 4:20). John was pointing out their arrogance and their disdain for fellow Christians. He would go on to say that if a person doesn’t love His brother, He cannot love God (1Jn 4:20). That is one of the ways, as well as a confession of Christ, that the Christians can test the spirit (1Jn 4:1-2). Not everyone who references scripture is honest and a teacher of Truth. Questions should arise if a person proclaims to have special knowledge, does not love those he’s teaching, and proceeds to teach with selfish ambition (Philp. 1:16).

John teaches the deity of Jesus in the beginning of his historical account. John describes Jesus as being as God when time began (John 1:1). This is before anything was created so Jesus couldn’t have been created. John also tells us He was the creator of all things when time began (Jn 1:3). Paul describes how Jesus, the creator of all things, was God before coming in the likeness of men (Philp. 2:5-6, Col. 1:16).

Jesus Himself declared to be equal with the Father (Jn 10:30). This is illustrated in the Father / Son relationship. Jesus declared it (Matt. 7:21, 10:32, 16:17). The Father Himself would declare Jesus as His Son (Matt. 3:17, 12:18, 17:5).