

In this Series of Lessons on Man's Ignorance we are Studying

1. Man's Spiritual Ignorance
2. Mans' Ignorance of God
3. Man's Ignorance of Christ
4. Man's Willful Ignorance

One of Satan's basic tactics is to keep people ignorant: "The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ"

2 Corinthians 4:3-4. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ignorant people are easy prey for those with wicked schemes: Proverbs 7:6-7 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the **simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,**

[Study Guide for Proverbs 7 by David Guzik \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

1. (Proverbs 7:6-9) The young fool seeks the immoral woman.

a. At the window of my house: As a skilled storyteller, Solomon explained how one day he looked out his window and saw a man passing along the street. The man was simple, young, and devoid of understanding.

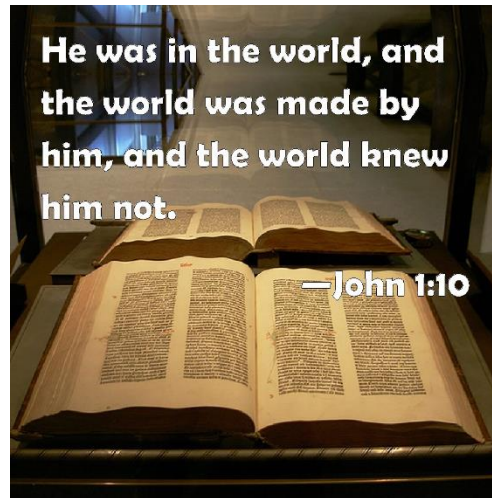
b. Simple: As in [Proverbs 1:4](#) and [1:22](#), this isn't stupidity, but inexperience and gullibility. The simple are uneducated in the ways of wisdom and need instruction. As Phillips commented on [Proverbs 1:4](#), the simple man has his mind open, but in a gullible and dangerous way.

c. Among the youths, a young man: The idea is repeated twice for emphasis. This man does not have the experience of years to help guide him in the path of wisdom. He has all the passions, energy, and overconfidence of youth, and none of the wisdom the decades can bring.

i. Of course, it is not *only* the young man who faces the challenge of purity; men and women of every age have their own challenges to pure living. Yet these are often more severely felt in the life of the young man.

ii. Even when a young man has the desire for moral purity, there are many things that may make it difficult for a him to receive and live God's wisdom. These include:

- Youthful energy and sense of carelessness.
- The lack of life wisdom.



- The desire for, and gaining of, independence.
- Physical and sexual maturity that may run ahead of spiritual and moral maturity.
- Money and the freedom that it brings.
- Young women who may — knowingly or unknowingly — encourage moral impurity.
- The spirit of the age that both expects and promotes moral uncleanness for young men.
- The desire to be accepted by peers who face the same challenges.

iii. The world tells us, “Have your good time when you are young; get it all out of your system. When you are older you can settle down and be religious and proper.” Yet God’s wisdom can make (or *should* make) a huge difference in the life of a young man.

iv. God wants to spare the young man (and the older man) the bondage of sin. This reflects upon the power of *experience* to shape our *habits*. Surrender to any temptation; transfer it from the realm of mental contemplation to life experience, and that temptation instantly becomes *much more difficult to resist in the future*. Each successive experience of surrender to temptation builds a habit, reinforced not only spiritually, but also by brain chemistry. Such ingrained habits are more and more difficult to break the more they are experienced, and it is almost impossible to break such habits without *replacing* them with another habit.

d. Devoid of understanding: Because he is simple and young, his reservoir of wisdom and understanding is empty. He is the one who must, at all costs, *get wisdom* ([Proverbs 4:5-7](#)).

i. “Young, inexperienced, featherbrained, he is the very sort to need arming with borrowed wisdom.” (Kidner)

ii. [Psalm 119:9](#) gives remarkable wisdom to the young man: *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

e. He took the path to her house: With his lack of wisdom and experience, this man was an easy target for the immoral woman. Under the cover of the black and dark night, he was foolish enough to pass along her street, then foolish enough to go near her corner. Soon he took the path to her house.

i. Given those conditions, it isn’t difficult to finish the story. We know how it ends when someone positively pursues temptation in this manner. As part of the disciples’ prayer, we are to pray *do not lead us into temptation* ([Matthew 6:13](#)). This one leads *himself* into temptation with sad and familiar results.

ii. The black and dark night: “Foolish men think to hide themselves from God, by hiding God from themselves.” (Trapp)

1.Christ, Human or Divine?

[John Commentaries & Sermons | Precept Austin](#)

Ask a conservative, "Was Jesus human or divine?" and he will answer emphatically, "Divine!" ([John 1:1](#))

Ask a liberal the same question and he may reply, "Human." ([John 1:14](#))

Both are right and both are wrong.

Why? Because the correct answer is "Both."

Jesus was both human and divine.

GOSPEL GLIMPSES OF JESUS CHRIST				
	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Christ Portrayed As	Prophesied King	Obedient Servant	Perfect Man	Son of God

During court proceedings, witnesses are more than onlookers or spectators. They are active participants who help determine the outcome of a case. The same is true of our witness for Christ. We are to be active participants in a matter of absolute importance—the truth of Jesus’s death and resurrection.

When John the Baptist came to tell people about Jesus, the light of the world, he did so by declaring his knowledge of Jesus. And John the disciple, who recorded the events, testified of his experience with Jesus: “We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” ([John 1:14](#)). The apostle Paul would elaborate on this idea as he told young Timothy, “The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others” ([2 Tim. 2:2](#)).

All Christians have been summoned before the courtroom of the world. The Bible says we are not mere spectators but active participants. We testify to the truth about Jesus’s death and resurrection. John the Baptist was the voice of one calling in the desert. Our voices can be heard in our workplace, neighborhood, church, and among our family and friends. We can be active witnesses, telling them about the reality of Jesus in our lives. By: Lawrence Darmani ([Our Daily Bread, Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. – Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved](#))

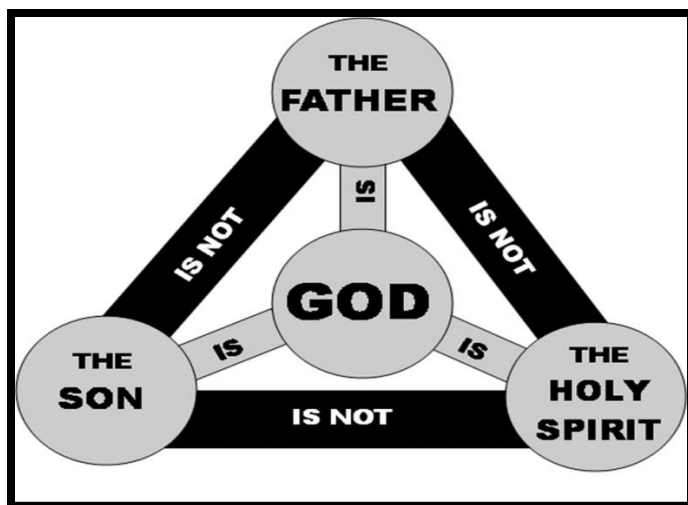
2. When Did Christ Begin?

In the beginning: John 1:2 Ge 1:1 Pr 8:22-31 Eph 3:9 Col 1:17 Heb 1:10 Heb 7:3 Heb 13:8 Rev 1:2,8,11 Rev 2:8 Rev 21:6 Rev 22:13

In the beginning (en [arche](#)) - What *beginning*? When is the *beginning*? Does he mean the *beginning* of eternity? Of course not, as eternity by its very nature has no *beginning* and no end, a truth no finite mind can fully grasp. What John is saying could be paraphrased "Before even time began was the Word." And so *beginning* refers to the inception of creation. When the creation came into existent, Jesus was already there. No matter how far back we believe the *beginning* to be, we will find Jesus, the pre-existent Word.

Athanasius put it this way "There never was when He was not, when the Son of God was not." ([Athanasius' Discourse I Against the Arians -See point 14](#)) In other words, the Word was not created (He is "un-created")! In fact as we will discuss in more detail on [John 1:3](#), He not only pre-existed eternally before creation, He created creation, "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him." ([Col 1:16+](#)) The writer of Hebrews adds that "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the **Word of God**, (not logos but [rhema](#), the spoken word, but the phrase "Word of God" still suggests a double entendre!) so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." ([Heb 11:3+](#)) And so in contrast to Matthew and Luke which begin with a classic genealogy, John begins with a "cosmic genealogy" as it were.

2. Who is Christ?



[Can You Explain the Trinity to Me? \(billygraham.org\)](http://billygraham.org)

The Bible shows very clearly that there is only one God, and yet that there are three personal distinctions in His complex nature, traditionally referred to as “three Persons in the Godhead”—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Each is distinct from the others but never acts independently. They are one in nature and purpose. This mystery is called the doctrine of the Trinity, though that term is not used in the Bible. The teaching, however, is present in seed form in the Old Testament and is revealed explicitly in the New Testament. Note passages such as Matthew 28:19; John 10:30, 14:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Our finite minds cannot understand or explain this mystery of God, which is nevertheless a fact. We must accept the truths found in the Word of God by faith even though we ourselves cannot comprehend them fully; read Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6 and 1 Corinthians 2:5-10, 14; 13:12.

It is really not surprising that the infinite God should be complex in His nature beyond the ability of finite humans to comprehend! This doctrine is absolutely essential to New Testament Christianity. Theologians have pointed out that if it were not true, the Bible would be unreliable, Christ would not be divine, and His death on the cross would not atone for our sins, being merely the death of a martyr.

The Holy Trinity is the biblical, monotheistic doctrine that **there is only one God in three distinct co-equal, co-eternal Persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit**; three Persons of the one nature and being. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father, but each of them are fully, equally, and simultaneously God.

The Humanity of Christ

John 1.14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

[Why is the humanity of Jesus important? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Why-is-the-humanity-of-Jesus-important/)

The humanity of Jesus is as equally important as the deity of Jesus. Jesus was born as a human being while still being totally divine. The concept of the humanity of Jesus co-existing with His deity is difficult for the finite mind of man to comprehend. Nevertheless, Jesus' nature—wholly man and wholly God—is a biblical fact. There are those who reject these biblical truths and declare that Jesus was a man, but not God (Ebionism). Docetism is the view that Jesus was God, but not human. Both viewpoints are unbiblical and false.

Jesus had to be born as a human being for several reasons. One is outlined in Galatians 4:4–5: “But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Only a man could be “born under the law.” No animal or angelic being is “under the law.” Only humans are born under the law, and only a human being could redeem other human beings born under the same law. Born under the law of God, all humans are guilty of transgressing that law. Only a perfect human—Jesus Christ—could perfectly keep the law and perfectly fulfill the law, thereby redeeming us from that guilt. Jesus accomplished our redemption on the cross, exchanging our sin for His perfect righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Another reason Jesus had to be fully human is that God established the necessity of the shedding of blood for the remission of sins (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22). The blood of animals, although acceptable on a temporary basis as a foreshadowing of the blood of the perfect God-Man, was insufficient for the permanent remission of sin because “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, sacrificed His human life and shed His human blood to cover the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. If He were not human, this would have been impossible.

Furthermore, the humanity of Jesus enables Him to relate to us in a way the angels or animals never can. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Only a human could sympathize with our weaknesses and temptations. In His humanity, Jesus was subjected to all the same kinds of trials that we are, and He is, therefore, able to sympathize with us and to aid us. He was tempted; He was persecuted; He was poor; He was despised; He suffered physical pain; and He endured the sorrows of a lingering and most cruel death. Only a human being could experience these things, and only a human being could fully understand them through experience.

Declaring that Jesus has come in the flesh is the mark of a spirit from God, while the Antichrist and all who follow him will deny it (1 John 4:2–3). Jesus has come in the flesh; He is able to sympathize with our human frailties; His human blood was shed for our sins; and He was fully God and fully Man. These are biblical truths that cannot be denied.

The Deity of Christ

[Is the deity of Christ biblical? | GotQuestions.org](#)

In addition to Jesus' specific claims about Himself, His disciples also acknowledged the deity of Christ. They claimed that Jesus had the right to forgive sins—something only God can do—as it is God who is offended by sin ([Acts 5:31](#); [Colossians 3:13](#); [Psalm 130:4](#); [Jeremiah 31:34](#)). In close connection with this last claim, Jesus is also said to be the one who will “judge the living and the dead” ([2 Timothy 4:1](#)). Thomas cried out to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” ([John 20:28](#)). Paul calls Jesus “great God and Savior” ([Titus 2:13](#)) and points out that prior to His incarnation Jesus existed in the “form of God”

([Philippians 2:5-8](#)). God the Father says regarding Jesus: "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever" ([Hebrews 1:8](#)). John states that "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word [Jesus] was God" ([John 1:1](#)). Examples of Scriptures that teach the deity of Christ are many (see [Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13](#); [1 Corinthians 10:4](#); [1 Peter 2:6-8](#); [Psalm 18:2, 95:1](#); [1 Peter 5:4](#); [Hebrews 13:20](#)), but even one of these is enough to show that Christ was considered to be God by His followers.

Jesus is also given titles that are unique to YHWH (the formal name of God) in the Old Testament. The Old Testament title "redeemer" ([Psalm 130:7](#); [Hosea 13:14](#)) is used of Jesus in the New Testament ([Titus 2:13](#); [Revelation 5:9](#)). Jesus is called Immanuel—"God with us"—in [Matthew 1](#). In [Zechariah 12:10](#), it is YHWH who says, "They will look on me, the one they have pierced." But the New Testament applies this to Jesus' crucifixion ([John 19:37](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)). If it is YHWH who is pierced and looked upon, and Jesus was the one pierced and looked upon, then Jesus is YHWH. Paul interprets [Isaiah 45:22-23](#) as applying to Jesus in [Philippians 2:10-11](#). Further, Jesus' name is used alongside God's in prayer "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" ([Galatians 1:3](#); [Ephesians 1:2](#)). This would be blasphemy if Christ were not deity. The name of Jesus appears with God's in Jesus' command to baptize "in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 28:19](#); see also [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)).

Actions that can be accomplished only by God are credited to Jesus. Jesus not only raised the dead ([John 5:21, 11:38-44](#)) and forgave sins ([Acts 5:31, 13:38](#)), He created and sustains the universe ([John 1:2](#); [Colossians 1:16-17](#)). This becomes even clearer when one considers YHWH said He was alone during creation ([Isaiah 44:24](#)). Further, Christ possesses attributes that only deity can have: eternity ([John 8:58](#)), omnipresence ([Matthew 18:20, 28:20](#)), omniscience ([Matthew 16:21](#)), and omnipotence ([John 11:38-44](#)).

Now, it is one thing to claim to be God or to fool someone into believing it is true, and something else entirely to prove it to be so. Christ offered many miracles as proof of His claim to deity. Just a few of Jesus' miracles include turning water to wine ([John 2:7](#)), walking on water ([Matthew 14:25](#)), multiplying physical objects ([John 6:11](#)), healing the blind ([John 9:7](#)), the lame ([Mark 2:3](#)), and the sick ([Matthew 9:35](#); [Mark 1:40-42](#)), and even raising people from the dead ([John 11:43-44](#); [Luke 7:11-15](#); [Mark 5:35](#)). Moreover, Christ Himself rose from the dead. Far from the so-called dying and rising gods of pagan mythology, nothing like the resurrection is seriously claimed by other religions, and no other claim has as much extra-scriptural confirmation.

There are at least twelve historical facts about Jesus that even non-Christian critical

scholars will admit:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried.
3. His death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope.
4. Jesus' tomb was discovered (or was claimed to be discovered) to be empty a few days later.
5. The disciples believed they experienced appearances of the risen Jesus.
6. After this, the disciples were transformed from doubters into bold believers.
7. This message was the center of preaching in the early Church.
8. This message was preached in Jerusalem.
9. As a result of this preaching, the Church was born and it grew.
10. Resurrection day, Sunday, replaced the Sabbath (Saturday) as the primary day of worship.
11. James, a skeptic, was converted when he also saw the resurrected Jesus.
12. Paul, an enemy of Christianity, was converted by an experience which he believed to be an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Even if someone were to object to this specific list, only a few are needed to prove the resurrection and establish the gospel: Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and appearances ([1 Corinthians 15:1-5](#)). While there may be some theories to explain one or two of the above facts, only the resurrection explains and accounts for them all. Critics admit that the disciples claimed they saw the risen Jesus. Neither lies nor hallucinations can transform people the way the resurrection did. First, what would they have had to gain? Christianity was not popular and it certainly did not make them any money. Second, liars do not make good martyrs. There is no better explanation than the resurrection for the disciples' willingness to die horrible deaths for their faith. Yes, many people die for lies that they think are true, but people do not die for what they know is untrue.

In conclusion, Christ claimed He was YHWH, that He was deity (not just "a god" but the one true God); His followers (Jews who would have been terrified of idolatry) believed Him and referred to Him as God. Christ proved His claims to deity through miracles, including the world-altering resurrection. No other hypothesis can explain these facts. Yes, the deity of Christ is biblical.