

Was Jesus Christ Really God?

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 1:1-18.

B. The book of John lays a foundation for who Christ is, and it sets out to prove it.

II. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who came in human flesh being deity with a mission to transform the lives of those willing to listen to Him and follow Him.

A. Incarnation suggests that Jesus is the eternal God who took on human flesh.

B. The deity of Christ is controversial.

C. If Jesus Christ is not God, we have nothing for which to hope.

D. Jesus assumed a sinless human nature when He came.

E. There is no such thing as the reincarnation of a person—when we die, we will give a final account.

III. John's affirmations about Jesus.

A. Jesus is God because in the beginning He was the Word.

1. At Bethlehem, Jesus Christ fully God, came into this world.

2. Jesus was humanity cloaked in deity.

3. John called Him the Word because He was the full expression of God.

4. Jesus existed in eternity past.

5. If Jesus was not the Son of God, the atonement is invalid.

6. Jesus reveals who God is—He is His eternal expression. (John 14, 6:38, 8:19, Matthew 5:22)

7. Jesus is the resurrected Son of God because He is God. (John 17:24)

B. Jesus is God by creation. (John 1, Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1)

C. Jesus is God by His power to reveal the Father. (John 1:14, 18)

D. Jesus is God by His power of redemption. Only God can forgive sins.

E. Jesus is God because He existed before time and eternity. (John 1:15)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to understand Jesus Christ's deity?

2. How can we know that Jesus Christ is God?

3. Which argument for the deity of Christ do you find most convincing? Explain.
