

Who do I worship: God or Jesus Christ?

When Jesus is tempted in the wilderness, who does Jesus say you should worship? Is it wrong to worship Jesus?

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve." (Matt 4:8-10, ESV)

1. What is the importance of the angel's announcement that Jesus will receive "the throne of his father David?"

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-33, ESV)

2. What do you observe of Jesus' statement of His relationship with His Father God?

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:25-30, ESV)

If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (John 10:37-38, ESV)

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (John 14:7-11, ESV)

3. What do you observe of Jesus' statement of His authority?

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:17-18, ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:1-3, ESV)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:16-20, ESV)

4. What do you observe about doubting Thomas' reaction to the resurrected Jesus?

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28, ESV)

5. What is your conclusion about worshiping Jesus Christ?

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Teacher Notes

When Jesus is tempted in the wilderness, who does Jesus say you should worship? Is it wrong to worship Jesus?

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Ask the student: what does Jesus' name mean in Hebrew and does Mary know He is the Son of God?

Jesus' name in Hebrew means "God is Salvation," and He is the Son of God.

Ask the student: what is the importance of the throne of David? Do you recall the Davidic Covenant?

The angel informs Mary that Jesus will be the direct successor to king David. In the Davidic Covenant, God promised David that the King with the everlasting kingdom will come from the House of David.

2. What do you observe of Jesus' statement of His relationship with His Father God?

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:25-30, ESV)

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Ask the student: what do you observe about the relationship between God and Jesus Christ? Circle or underline all that you observe. Does God and Jesus make up one individual or are they different?

Jesus Christ is united with His Father as one; but, as two separate individuals. God the Father abides in His Son and visa versa so that Jesus is the human image of His invisible Father.

3. What do you observe of Jesus' statement of His authority?

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:17-18, ESV)

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Ask the student: underline or circle all of your observations about Jesus' authority? What do you learn from that?

God the Father gave His Son, while in human form on earth, the rights and privileges of the Father.

4. What do you observe about doubting Thomas' reaction to the resurrected Jesus?

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Ask the student: How does doubting Thomas identify Jesus? How good is your observation? What sort of deity was Jesus known before?

Doubting Thomas is the first person to make the link that Jesus is God – not the Son of God but God.

5. What is your conclusion about worshiping Jesus Christ?

Encourage the student to discuss and grapple with this question.

Worshiping Jesus is equivalent to worshiping God: God abides in Jesus Christ and gave His Son all the rights and privileges of the Father. Placing our faith in Jesus Christ is placing our faith in God. When we glorify Jesus, we glorify God (John 17:1-3).