

Who do I worship: God or Jesus Christ?

God help us! Jesus save me! Praise God! Hallelujah Jesus! Who do I worship – God or Jesus? With careful study of the Jesus' own words, one can begin to develop an understanding of the position of God the Father and God the Son within God's unfolding plan of salvation and an answer to this perplexing question.

1. What is Jesus saying about His relationship with God? Circle / underline all of the important points to help in your observation.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 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. (John 14:7-10, ESV)

2. Observe carefully what Jesus is explaining here. Feel free to mark up the text!

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:35, ESV)

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 28:18-20, ESV)

3. Who do you worship and why? Sum up your findings.

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Teacher Notes

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Encourage the student to re-read the passage several times. Are there any significant terms? What relationship do you see?

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus never called Himself "the Son of God". Instead, He esteems His invisible Father and places a greater emphasis on His relationship by frequently referring to Him as "My Father" (i.e. Matt 16:17; 18:19; Luke 23:46; etc.).

Throughout the gospels, Jesus never once called Himself God. Instead, Jesus describes Himself as the image of God! When you see Jesus, you see His Father the invisible God!

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Ask the student: what do you observe about Jesus' relationship to God?

It is in the context of a regal relationship, Father King to Son Prince, that Jesus explicitly refers to the absolute rights and privileges given to Him when He says, "the Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand" (John 3:35) or "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matt 28:18).

Additional evidence of this can be seen when Jesus says, "all that the Father gives Me" (John 6:37, 39; John 13:3; 17:2), or the similar phrase "all things have been handed over to me by My Father" (Matt 11:27; Luke 10:22).

3. Who do you worship and why? Sum up your findings.

Encourage the student to openly discuss his thoughts with the class. Here is an example conclusion:

There is more than one reason for worshiping Jesus, as equivalent to worshiping God, than just His triune unity with His Father.

God the Father abides in His Son so that Jesus is the human image of His invisible Father.

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