

# GODHEAD COURSE

## Who is Jesus

Previous lessons have clearly established that the God of the Bible is a singular monotheistic God, the Father of Jesus, the Source of all things and the only true God. This lesson answers the question: Who is Jesus?

In lessons 6-10 we established the following about Jesus:

### Old Testament

- He is the Son of Jehovah (Proverbs 8:22-30; 30:4)
- He is the presence of Jehovah (Isaiah 63:9)
- He is the Voice or Word of Jehovah (Exodus 23:22)
- He has Jehovah's name in Him (Exodus 23:21)

### Gospels

- He is the Son of God (John 10:36)
- He is the presence of God (I and My Father are one - John 10:30)
- He is the Voice or Word of God (John 1:1; 12:49)
- He has God's name in Him (I am – John 8:58)

Being referred to as the Son of God raises more questions about his origin and divinity.

### Who did Jesus claim to be?

*“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?” John 10:36*

Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. He never ever referred to Himself as God the Son, and neither did any writer of the scripture.

In another conversation between Jesus and the Jews, we read:

*“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that **God was his Father**, making himself equal with God.” John 5:18*

The reason the Jews wanted to kill Jesus is because He claimed to be the Son of God. He said that God was His Father.

*“The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” John 19:7*

*“He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.” Matthew 27:43*

Jesus clearly claimed to be the Son of God, and those who heard Him clearly understood what He claimed

### **What did God the Father say about Jesus?**

The gospels record God the Father speaking from heaven three times. Twice the Father said *“this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” Mat 3:17; 17:5*

Surely, God’s words are trust worthy. Some would say that God was speaking in simple easy to understand human language.

This line of reasoning is usually used to promote the idea that Jesus is not the literal son of God. He is called the Son just so one can understand the triune nature of God, emphasising that He is not the Son of God, but is God the son, co-eternal with the Father.

If Jesus wanted his followers to believe that God is a trinity, that He is God the Son and that He was never begotten in the days of eternity, then why didn’t He just say so?

Why would He confuse us by claiming to be the Son of God, if in reality He was not the Son of God? The confusion disappears when one accepts by faith what Jesus said.

### **Who did the disciples believe Jesus was?**

#### **John the Baptist:**

*“And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.” John 1:34*

**Nathanael:**

*“Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.” John 1:49*

**Peter:**

*“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16*

**Paul, after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus:**

*“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.” Acts 9:20*

*“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9*

**Martha speaking with Jesus:**

*“She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.” John 11:27*

**Matthew’s record of Jesus walking on the water:**

*“Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.” Matthew 14:33*

**Fallen angels:**

*“When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.” Luke 8:28 (see also Matt 8:29)*

God the Father declared Jesus is his Son; the apostles and demons believed and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Trial and crucifixion Of Jesus:**

*“But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Mark 14:61*

*“And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:62*

Jesus’s claim about His Sonship was important enough for Him to be crucified for it.

The Bible emphatically and unequivocally testifies to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God:

- Paul preached it (Acts 9:20), and John the Baptist testified of it (John 1:34)
- The disciples proclaimed it (Matt 14:33)
- Christ taught it to Nicodemus (John 3:16)
- Jesus was crucified for it (Mark 14:62)
- The Father revealed it to Peter (Matthew 16:16),
- Twice the Father proclaimed it from heaven (Matthew 3:17, 17:5)
- The soldier under the cross confessed it (Matthew 27:54)
- The devils believed and proclaimed it (Luke 8:28)
- Jesus taught it (John 10:36, 5:18)

**Belief in the sonship of Jesus is a prerequisite for baptism and eternal life:**

**Philip:**

*“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts 8:37*

**John:**

*“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” John 20:31*

Believing that Jesus is the Son of God leads to eternal life.

*“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” 1 John 4:15*

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe*

*on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:13*

The sonship of Jesus is a crucial foundational truth of the gospel and the plan of salvation. “God the Son” is not found in scripture; Jesus is always referred to as the “Son of God”.

If Jesus’ sonship to the Father is metaphorical then:

- The Jews at His day would not have considered it as blasphemy
- Those hearing His words would not have understood Him to be claiming that He was begotten of God in the days of eternity and would not have accused Him of blasphemy saying: *“For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself.” John 10:33*
- Jesus would not have said: *“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?” John 10:36*

Obviously, when claiming to be the Son of God, those listening to Jesus did not understand His sonship in a metaphorical way. They understood His sonship to make Him equal with God and give Him a divine nature.

Conclusion:

Jesus is called the (literal) Son of God, not God the Son.