

(May 1991 - EKB)

1. Most heresies and false cults, have at the centre of their teaching, some error concerning the Person of Christ. Many believe He was a great teacher, a great example of how men should live, but deny His divinity, His resurrection from the dead, or some other aspect of His life and ministry. It is foundationally important that we understand and believe what the **Word of God teaches about the Person of Christ.**

2. About 325AD, Arius caused havoc in the church, by teaching that the Son and the Holy Spirit were subordinate beings, whom the Father willed into existence for the purpose of acting as His agents, in His dealings with the world and man. In effect Arius reduced our Lord, (and the Holy Spirit), below the level of Deity.
In 325AD the General Council of the whole church was summoned to meet at Nicaea, because of the erroneous teachings of Arius, and they produced the Nicene Creed to formally define our **Lord's Eternal Sonship and Deity.** You can read the Nicene Creed in No 83.

3. Jesus clearly taught that He is the **eternal, uncreated God**, of all eternity, and this declaration infuriated the Jews, who accused Him of blasphemy, and sought to kill Him. John's gospel is the main source of Jesus' teaching about His divinity, and the truth about His Person and nature.

4. *Jn 5:16-18* In *v17*, Jesus declares His equality with the Father which results in a double resolve by the Jews to kill Him.
Jn 5:19-30 Jesus follows this up by stating five ways that He is equal to the Father, so that there can be no mistake!
 - a. *v19* equal in works *v20*,
 - b. *v21* equal in raising the dead *v25,28,29*,
 - c. *v22* the Father has given the role of being the Judge of all men to the Son *v27,30*, i.e. equal in being the Judge,
 - d. *v23* equal in honour,
 - e. *v26* equal in having underived life, (life that is able to continue without outside input). Only God has underived life.
Jn 5:31-39 Jesus lists five witnesses that confirm His identity.
 - a. *v32*, the Holy Spirit's witness,
 - b. *v33-35* John the Baptist,
 - c. *v36* Jesus' own works, *14:11*,
 - d. *v37* the Father Himself,
 - e. *v39* the Scriptures or the Word of God.

5. **The seven "I am's"** of John's Gospel reveal Jesus' divinity because they represent what God was to His people in the Old Testament.

<i>Jn 6:35</i>	I am the Bread of Life ,.....	<i>Ex 16:4,15, Ps 105:40.</i>
<i>Jn 8:12-</i>	I am the Light of the World ,.....	<i>Ps 27:1</i>
<i>Jn 10:7</i>	I am the Door of the sheep ,.....	<i>Ps 118:19,20, Is 26:2, Ps 100:4</i>
<i>Jn 10:14</i>	I am the Good Shepherd ,.....	<i>Ps 23:1</i>
<i>Jn 11:25</i>	I am the Resurrection and the Life	<i>Ps 40:2,3, Ps 30:3</i>
<i>Jn 14:6</i>	I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ...	<i>Pro 20:24, Ps 25:5,10</i>
<i>Jn 15:1</i>	I am the True Vine	<i>Ps 80:8,14,15, Is 5:1-7</i>

6. Jesus took a place of authority over the Word of God, and God's Law, showing that He had the authority of God Himself, *Mat 5:21,22,27,28,31,32,33,34,etc.*
7. On many occasions Jesus accepted worship, as God. *Mat 14:33, Mat 2:2,11, Mat 8:2, Mat 9:18, Mat 15:25 etc.* (See what happened when the Apostle John tried to worship an angel in *Rev 22:8,9.*)
8. In *Ex 3:14* God revealed to Moses, that His Name is **"I AM WHO I AM"**(NKJV). He is the God whose Name is, "I AM". The One who is. The Self-existent One. The most frequently used Name for God in the Old Testament is "Jehovah", or more correctly "Yahweh", which is expressed in the English translations as "LORD". "Jehovah" or "Yahweh" means the "One Who is", the "Self existent One", or "I AM".
Jesus refers to Himself as the "I AM", in John's Gospel, frequently.
- Jn 8:24* "if you do not believe that 'I AM', you will die in your sins."(the "he", after the "I AM" is not in the Greek.)
 - Jn 8:28* "when you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that "I AM"."
 - Jn 18:5,6,8* Jesus said to them "I AM." "When He said to them 'I AM' they drew back and fell to the ground." "I have told you that 'I AM.'" (The "he" is not in the Gk).
 - Jn 13:19* "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that "I AM."
 - Jn 6:20* "He said to them, 'I AM', do not be afraid." (In the English translation it is usually written, "It is I," but the Greek is "I AM".)
- See also *Lk 21:8.*
9. In the last part of *Jn 8*, from *verses 48-59* there was a very strong conflict between Jesus and the Jews concerning His identity, which ended, in v58, with Jesus declaring, "before Abraham was, I AM." Immediately the Jews took up stones to stone Him because they knew instantly that He was claiming to be Jehovah, which in their eyes was blasphemy against God.
10. Clearly then, Jesus claimed to be the eternal, uncreated, God, "Jehovah" or LORD.
11. The testimony of the Holy Spirit through the writers of the New Testament is also very clear.
- Mat 1:23* "Call His Name Immanuel", which is translated, "God with us."
Jn 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
Phil 2:6 "Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God."
1Tim 3:16 "God was manifest in the flesh"
Col 2:9 "in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
Tit 2:13 "looking for..... the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."
1Jn 5:20 "We know that the Son of God is come this is the true God, and eternal life."
Heb 1:1-3 "God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person....."
Jn 20:28 "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'my Lord and my God!'"