

## **“THE SON IS GOD.”**

**Rev. Robert T. Woodyard**

**First Christian Reformed Church**

**June 2, 2013, 6:00PM**

**Sermon Texts: John 1:1-4; 8:56-59**

### **Introduction.**

One of the most important questions anyone can ask and answer is, “Who is Jesus?” Jesus asked the disciples that most important question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Most people believe that a man called Jesus the Christ existed in history. Some say He was a prophet, some a teacher, some a wise philosopher, some a miracle worker or a healer, some a great man and a great example.

Even Islam says Jesus was a great prophet. But lots of people don't believe that Jesus was and is God and the Son of God.

This evening we want to understand as fully and clearly as we can that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is God.

Remember when we are talking about Truth, we are talking about meat and milk, about things that nourish us and sustain us, that feed our souls and give us life, even life eternal.

Don't let yourself be bored by Truth, be invigorated by it. This doctrine of the divinity of the second person of the Trinity is like milk to a baby, and a steak to a grown man. This is the stuff of life.

### **The Son is God.**

Within the eternal Godhead there is an intimate and personal relationship, the relationship of a Father and a Son, a relationship in which they have always loved, communicated and fellowshiped.

Through the ages some have taken this way of speaking to mean that the Father was first and the Son came later. That's what it means on earth, and so they project that meaning back to heaven.

So a key question is whether the Son has always existed or not. Has there always been a son or did God only become a Father after the Son came into existence?

### **Begotten not made.**

The Belgic Confession Article Ten says Jesus is eternally begotten, not made nor created.

**Psalm 2:7** The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

C.S. Lewis does a great job explaining the difference between begotten and made:

“We don’t use the words begetting or begotten much in modern English, but everyone still knows what they mean. To beget is to become the father of: to create is to make. And the difference is this. When you beget, you beget something of the same kind as yourself. A man begets human babies, a beaver begets little beavers and a bird begets eggs which turn into little birds.

“But when you make, you make something of a different kind from yourself. A bird makes a nest, a beaver builds a dam, a man makes a wireless set—or he may make something more like himself than a wireless set: say, a statue. If he is a clever enough carver he may make a statue which is very like a man indeed. But, of course, it is not a real man; it only looks like one. It cannot breathe or think. It is not alive.

“What God begets is God; just as what man begets is man. What God creates is not God; just as what man makes is not man. That is why men are not Sons of God in the sense that Christ is. They may be like God in certain ways, but they are not things of the same kind. They are more like statues or pictures of God” (*The Weight of Glory*).

Unfortunately this idea of begetting can suggest to some people’s minds that one came first, and this is not true. In eternity there is no progression of time, eternity simply is eternity, no beginning, no end. God is eternal, no beginning, no end. God simply is, and the isness of God never changes, God always is Trinity. There is no before or after in the Trinity, all are equally and eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Father has always been a Father and the Son has always been a Son. “There was not a time when the Son was not.” The Father is an everlasting Father and of necessity He has an everlasting Son.

One of the quickest ways to identify a cult is to find out what they think about Jesus. Mormonism and Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that Jesus is the greatest created being, but created nevertheless.

### **The Testimony of Scripture.**

While many in the world deny it, the evidence from Scripture is indisputable, from Genesis to Revelation. The texts are so numerous they would fill pages.

The Belgic Confession just mentions a few. It starts by connecting Genesis 1 and John 1 and Hebrews 1. God created all the universe by and through Jesus the Son.

Let me expand on this by showing *four kinds of evidence in Scripture* that demonstrate that Jesus is God, “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God” (Nicene Creed).

#### ***First, divine names are given to Jesus.***

God is used of Jesus at least seven times in the NT (John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 1:3; 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; II Peter 1:1) and at least a couple of times in the OT (Isaiah 9:6; 40:3).

Lord is used of Jesus numerous times. The title means, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is called King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God said His divine name is I am (Exodus 3:14) and Jesus takes the same name, I am (John 8:58). The two cannot be eternally self-existent unless they are one.

God calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation 1:8.  
Jesus calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation 22:12-13.  
They both cannot be the first and the last unless they are one.

Jesus is called the Word (logos). The Word was with God and the Word was God. Distinct from and equal to God.

Jesus is called the Son of God, the unique, eternal Son who is equal to God. He is called the Christ, the anointed one; and Shepherd and Rock, all titles that suggest divinity.

There was no doubt in the Jews minds what Jesus was saying. They knew clearly that He claimed to be the same as the Father, to be God. This was blasphemy, an action that robbed God of His glory; a human presumption that discredited God. For this they tried to stone Him and for this eventually He was killed.

***Second, divine attributes are ascribed to Jesus.***

Hebrews 1:3 says Jesus is the exact representation, a replica, a duplicate of all the divine attributes in the Father, a perfect image. All that the Father is, He is. To see Jesus is to see the Father, to know the Father is to know the Son.

Scripture says Jesus is eternal, “before Abraham, I am”; and John 17:5 “the glory I had before the world.” Jesus is immortal, He cannot die, when He lays down his life He takes it up again.

Scripture shows Jesus has divine power, He is omnipotent over nature, demons, disease; He changed water into wine, multiplied loaves and fish and walked on water.

Scripture reveals His unparalleled wisdom, that He is all knowing, omniscience, knowing people’s thoughts; knowing who would believe and not believe (John 2:25, 6:64, 21:17). Jesus knew all about the woman at the well (John 4).

Jesus claims for Himself omnipresence, “where two or three are gathered I am there” (Matthew 18:20) and “I will be with you until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus has sovereign authority to forgive sins. He says often, “you have heard it said, but I say to you ...”. The Father gives Him all authority.

**Colossians 1:15, 19** He is the image of the invisible God, ... 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

**Colossians 2:9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

Anything God can do Jesus can and does do.

***Third, divine works are attributed to Jesus.***

He is the Creator of all things; the Governor of all things and all nations; He brings salvation and will come again to Judge all people (John 5:27). He performs a vast number of miracles; He forgives sins and raises people from the dead.

***Fourth, divine honors are received by Jesus.***

Jesus is worshipped; even the angels worship Him (Hebrew 1:6-7).  
Jesus is not chief among the angels, He is worshipped by the angels as God.  
In Hebrews 1:8, 10 the Father bears witness to the deity of Jesus.

He is prayed to (Acts 7:55ff; Romans 10:13-14); bowed down to; obeyed; served; feared; and revered.

He accepts adoration and highest praise “My Lord and my God.”  
As God He alone is worthy to receive worship, adoration and obedience.

**John 5:23** that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

The testimony of Scripture is this:

**John 20:30-31** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

He truly is Emmanuel, God with us.

**Application and conclusion.**

It's a remarkable thing when you think about it that the Jewish apostles came to believe Jesus was God. As orthodox Jews they had all been raised hearing and saying the Shema:

“Hear O Israel, the Lord your God, He is one.”

To think of God in any other way would have been unthinkable and indeed, blasphemous. Yet in just three short years' time they would affirm He did what only God could do. Indeed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

In this age of pluralism and tolerance and relativism and syncretism, where it doesn't matter what you believe, the words of Jesus in John 5:23 hit like an explosion.

“Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”

People who say all paths lead to God are wrong. The only path that leads to God is the path that leads through His Son Jesus Christ. If they don't honor Jesus they don't honor God.

This is of supreme importance because if Christ is less than God or other than God, then our salvation is not from God. If Jesus is not fully God then we have no salvation and there is no Christianity.

**I John 2:22-23, 25** Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ... 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

*How does Jesus being the eternal God benefit us?*

**First**, we have a Savior who is able to be without sin and save us from our sin, a Savior who is able to bear the eternal wrath of God and remain righteous.

**Second**, we have a Savior who has power and authority to forgive sins and raise us from the dead and to give us eternal life.

**Third**, we have a Savior who is worthy of our worship, adoration and obedience, who is worthy to be our Lord.

**Fourth**, we have a Savior who is our great High Priest in heaven to whom we can pray and who hears and answers and is powerfully able to do all we need and more than we can ask or imagine.

**John 20:30-31** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Revelation 5:12-13** *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”* 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”