

IS JESUS GOD?

What if Jesus is not God?

Consider these verses in answering;

Luke 18:19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

Romans 3:23 for all [people] have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Answer;

If Jesus is not God then Jesus is just a man and is therefore not good and has fallen short of the glory of God like every other person.

Can any examples be found in scripture to show that Jesus was ever guilty of sin?

Answer; No!

In fact, exactly the opposite is demonstrated over and over again. Most notably is the fact that the Jewish leaders of the time had to bring in false witnesses in order to try and find a reason to kill Jesus.

If Jesus was guilty of sin, could He be the Messiah/Savior? In other words, is it possible for a man guilty of sin to pay for the sins of others?

Answer; No!

To be able to pay the price of sin (death, *Romans 6:23*) on behalf of others, the Messiah must be innocent. One sinner taking the place of another sinner is just that and cannot satisfy the holy requirement of God (*Hebrews 12:14*).

The scriptures teach that Jesus was "just" (innocent) and suffered "once for [the] sins" of the "unjust" (wicked).

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

The Levitical Law (and the many Messianic types found in the Old Testament) shows over and over again that atonement for sin was found only by the death/sacrifice of something innocent (i.e. an innocent animal). (*Notable Old Testament types: Abraham and Isaac-Genesis 22, the Passover Lamb-Exodus 12*) This was all to show the type (or picture) that the ultimate and final atonement, made by the Messiah, provided by God, would be found only in the death of the innocent Messiah. (*Isaiah 53*)

What if Jesus is not God?

Answer;

If Jesus is not God than Jesus was only a man and was therefore not good and has fallen short of the glory of God. If that is true than it is impossible for Him to pay for the sins of the world. If that is true, our faith in Jesus as Messiah is futile and we are still in our sins!

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Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

Compare to

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

The Hebrew word for "one" is the same in both these verses. The word (echad) means; united, one, altogether. It's a word describing one in a plural sense. The same as a married couple become one entity yet are clearly still two persons, God is one entity yet with plurality.

That said, the scriptures keep us from straying into the false thinking of multiple gods by also using a singular name (Yahweh), which is the all powerful name/word for "the LORD".

Yet the Hebrew word used for "God" is elohiym, a plural or singular word that is determined by the context. This Hebrew word is used at times used to communicate false "gods". For example, it is the word used when God said to have no other "gods" before me (Exodus 20). It is also used to describe the one true God in the first chapters of Genesis during the creation account; showing that before, during and after the creation, God is and always will be the plural and the single true God. In other words, God eternally exists as one plural being.

In a sense Deuteronomy 6:4 reads "Hear, O Israel: The Yahweh (ONE) our God (plural), the Yahweh (ONE) is One (plural but joined altogether as one)!"

Conclusion

God is one eternal and plural being. A further and more thorough study of scripture (that we are not going into at this time) makes it clear that the eternal plurality of God is three persons known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit that are all equal in power and glory. Note: All three can be recognized at the same time during the baptism of Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:16-17). Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit ascended on Him like a dove and the Father spoke from Heaven.

Thus far;

If Jesus is not God, then He cannot be the Messiah. God does eternally exist as one, yet is a plural being.

However, this does not answer the question of whether or not Jesus is God. So far, all that has been shown is that God does in fact exist in multiple persons (three persons) and that the Messiah must be one of those persons.

Is Jesus God?

Since we know from scripture that God is eternal, then we also know that all the persons of God must be eternal. In other words, since God is one, his attributes should be found in all parts or persons of Him. Specifically, let's consider the eternal existence of Jesus Christ. If Jesus is God, then He is eternal. And if He is eternal, then He is God. Proofs for Jesus' deity and His eternal existence are one in the same. *(This thought and the following was derived although not directly quoted from Lewis Sperry Chafer's Major Bible Themes)*

IS JESUS GOD?

Does scripture communicate that Jesus is eternal? Does it communicate that Jesus is God?

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a **Child is born**, Unto us a **Son is given**; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

NOTE: In Isaiah's prophecy about the Messiah, he clearly makes a distinction between a Child born (Son of Man) and a Son given (Son of God). Also, among the many glories and praise worthy names given to the Messiah here, He is called "Mighty God" and "Everlasting Father". This verse alone is enough to show the Messiah's fully human and yet fully God attributes and His equivalence to God Himself!

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was **the Word** (*single*), and **the Word was with God** (*separate*), and the **Word was God** (*joined together*). He (*the Word*) was in the beginning with God (*two separate yet joined persons*).

John 1:14 And the **Word** (*God*) **became flesh** (*human*) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel (*The Messiah*), **Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.**" (*Eternal*)

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name **Immanuel** (*Which means "God with us". Jesus was not named Immanuel. He was Immanuel/God with us!*)

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM**.

"I AM" is the name God gave to describe Himself to the Israelites in Moses's time (Exodus 3:13-14). That's why the Jews at the time of Jesus got so upset about this statement. If Jesus was/is not God than this was blasphemy.

John 17:5

And now, O Father, **glorify Me together with Yourself**, with the glory which I had with You **before the world was.**

Philippians 2:6-7

Who [Jesus], **being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to **be equal with God**, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the **likeness of men**.

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Colossians 1:15-19

He [Jesus] is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] **all the fullness should dwell**,

NOTE: According to Adam Clarke, "The firstborn over all creation" is a reference to the Jewish term used to describe God "*Jehovah becora shel olam*", meaning the firstborn of all creation. This statement is placing Jesus in equivalence with God as the Creator.

1Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

NOTE: This clearly describes Jesus as Messiah and yet is ascribed to God.

Hebrews 1:2-3

[God] has in these last days spoken to us **by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through **whom [Jesus, His Son] also He [God] made the worlds**; who [Jesus] being the brightness of His [God's] glory and **[Jesus] the express image of His [God's] person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Is Jesus God?

Yes, without question, Jesus is God!

Is this a thorough study of the subject of Jesus' deity?

No, but I hope that it is enough to help you realize that it is true that Jesus is in fact the full expression of God Himself. God Himself stepped into His own creation as part of His creation, fully God and fully man, to save sinners that humble themselves and trust in His plan of salvation made possible only through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. He came, He lived, He gave His life unto death on the cross, He defeated death, He rose again, He ascended to Heaven and He's coming back! Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved! Romans 10:9