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[simstech@gmail.com](mailto:simstech@gmail.com)

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# THE FATHER & THE SON

**P**ERHAPS the most compelling argument in all Scripture of God's infinite love is the wondrous gift to us of His Son; not a son by creation, as are the angels and we men, nor a son merely by virtue of His virgin birth in Bethlehem, but a Son begotten in ages past, long before any other being existed:

The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. . . . When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: — Prov 8:22, 24-25 (see also John 8:42)

Other texts in the Old Testament clearly reveal the fact that God had a Son prior to Bethlehem:

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? — Proverbs 30:4

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. — Daniel 3:25

The prophet Isaiah in some of the most elevated language in all of Scripture reveals the wondrous fact that God had a Son to give:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; . . . — Isaiah 9:6

## HOW WAS HE BEGOTTEN?

It is not for us to know exactly how the Son was brought forth, because God has not seen fit to reveal it unto us. However, in the Genesis account of Creation we find a rather interesting account:

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. — Gen 2:21, 22

This is one example of someone coming from the substance of another in a different way than children are born. I repeat, it is not for us to know exactly how the Son of God was brought forth, but the point is that the Son “proceeded forth and came from God” (John 8:42), that he was “brought forth” of the Father “before the hills” (Prov 8:24, 25).



## JESUS, THE MEASURE OF GOD’S LOVE

The Father’s gift of the Son, is the measure of God’s love: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; . . .” (John 3:16).

To doubt that God had a Son to give, is to fail to comprehend the love of God. The gift of God is given to us as a measuring line that we may comprehend the love of God. To know God, we must believe His word, and we must believe in His love for us.

## TWO DISTINCT BEINGS

The Father and His Son are referred to in the Bible as two separate and distinct beings. In Christ’s prayer, recorded in John 17, Christ addresses His Father as a separate person:

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. — John 17:1

Jesus speaks of Himself and His Father as one in the sense of being united, but not as one being or person:

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest

me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one. — John 17:21, 22

The oneness of the Father and the Son is the pattern whereby Jesus illustrates how you and I are to be one with other believers. Such a unity does not destroy individuality, but it does unite the heart.

## CHRIST IS STILL THE SON OF GOD

After the resurrection, in Christ's glorified state, God is still the Father of Christ:

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. — John 20:17

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. — 2 John 1:3

That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Romans 15:6

## THE "CHRIST"

The term "Christ" was understood by the Hebrew people to signify the "Son of God":

And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. — John 6:69 (see also Matt. 16:16; 26:63; Mark 1:1; Luke 4:41; John 11:27; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor 1:19)

## THE CONDITION FOR BAPTISM

Belief in Christ as the Son of God was the condition for baptism:

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

This was the first thing Paul preached:

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

## THE REASON THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN

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

The Scripture testimony referring to Christ being the Son of God is plain. It never even hints that we are to understand these verses which refer to Christ as the Son of God to mean anything other than the obvious. If we deny this truth, we make God a liar, and we might as well deny the entire Bible.

## ANTICHRIST DENIES THE FATHER – SON RELATIONSHIP

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. — 1 John 2:22

The antichrist is a professedly Christian power which denies the relationship of the Father and the Son; it denies that Jesus is really the son of God. In so doing it denies that God is really the Father of Christ. Believing the doctrines of men as taught to us by pastor, priest, or the creeds of a church has no virtue or power to sanctify us. Only by believing the truth, as revealed in the Bible, can we be sanctified (John 17:17):

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. — 2 Thessalonians 2:13

If we will simply take the word of God as it reads, without bringing our preconceived ideas to it, we will know the truth:

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. — John 8:32

## THE GOSPEL

The Truth that Christ is the Son of God is the Gospel:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. — John 3:16

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH

This Truth is the foundation of the Christian Church:

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock [the truth that Christ is the “Son of the living God”] I will build my church. — Matthew 16:16-18 (see 1 Pet 2:4-8)