


IS THIS NOT JOSEPH'S SON?

Michael Pickford

The above question was one asked by those who lived where Jesus grew up, Nazereth (Luke 4:22). For all practical purposes, Nazereth was Jesus' home town. It has been said that familiarity breeds contempt. Sadly, this was the case in this incident at Nazereth when those who watched Jesus grow up from a boy to a man tried to end His life by throwing Him over the cliff (vs 29).

In literal terms, the answer to their question was yes and no. Joseph was Jesus' legal father. Jesus had no biological father because He was born of Mary who was a virgin both when she conceived Jesus and when she gave birth to him (Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14). Joseph took Mary as his wife so he then went on to be known as Jesus' father. Jesus was really the Son of God, Mary being "found with child of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18).

What drove those at Nazereth to ask the question was pride. It takes a certain amount of humility to submit oneself to someone in any way when you've known that individual since they were a small child. So Jesus stated, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house" (Mark 6:4).

Sadly, Pride still continues to keep folks from honoring Jesus by keeping all of His commandments. Jesus taught that it was those who keep his commandments that really love Him (John 14:21). There are many who call Him Lord, Lord but do not do what He has clearly said to do (Luke 6:46; Mark 16:16). 

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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MARRIAGE IS MEANT TO LAST A LIFETIME

Michael Pickford

How many weddings have we attended and how many times have we heard the one presiding say, "Until death do you part." Did you ever wonder how that phrase came to be included in weddings? It's because the Bible teaches the concept.

When Jesus was asked if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife for just any cause (Matthew 19:3) He answered by taking them back to the very beginning to the marriage of the first man and woman - Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:23-25). Then Jesus said, "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). Notice that it is God Himself who joins man and woman together as husband and wife. This forms a bond that is intended to last until one or both of them die. Never mind adultery, divorce itself is a sin unless it is done for the one reason given by Jesus – fornication (Matthew 19:9). They've sinned when they divorced, and then when they remarry, they add the sin of adultery to the equation.

Many living in our society today would agree with the majority of people that lived in Jesus' day. They would say, "Yes, it is lawful to put your spouse away for just any cause." To legally facilitate these divorces they have invented terms such as "Irreconcilable differences," and "No-fault divorces." But these terms are of man, not of God. Jesus would give the same answer to people today as He gave those Jews in Matthew 19. "For the Lord God of Israel says that he hates divorce..." (Malachi 2:16).

The Holy Spirit adds force to this by inspiring Paul the Apostle to write what he did in Romans 7:1-3. Paul taught there that if a woman marries another man while her first husband is still living she is an adulteress. However, if her first husband dies then she is not an adulteress if she marries another man. This tells us two things. First, it tells us that if the man God joined her to is still alive then she becomes guilty of adultery if she marries another man. Even if she "Legally" divorces her husband for any reason other than fornication she is still an adulteress if she marries another man (Matthew 19:9). But the verse also teaches us the concept from which we get the phrase, "Till death do us part." That is, if one's spouse dies, they are released from God's law that binds them. So, they are free to marry another. God expects your marriage to last a lifetime. So, when you get married, you better be sure! 

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Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: The Deity of Christ

Weekly Memory Verse: John 1:1-2

Introduction: Jesus Himself declared, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last..." (Revelation 1:11). This is a declaration of His deity. What we mean when refer to Jesus as deity is that he is divine – He is God. No, He isn't the Father nor is He the Holy Spirit. All three of these "Persons" make up the one true God – the "Godhead." Many deny the deity of Christ. Some believe He was a great man, or a great prophet, or a great teacher, or even all of these things, but, they say, he is not God. The religious group calling themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" are very much known for their denial of Christ's deity. They believe Jesus of Nazareth was Michael the Arch angel in heaven who came to be the son of God on earth. As a result, they have literally cut passages out of their Bibles and perverted others in order to try and substantiate their claim. What does the Bible say? This week, let's consider some passages that leave no doubt as to the Deity of Jesus Christ. As always, be sure to look up in your Bible and read the scripture references given.

Monday: God was manifested in the Flesh.

1. John 1:1-2, 14; 1 Timothy 3:15: Who was "the Word" with? Who did John say the Word was? From the first phrase of John 1:14, name two things that "The Word" did. Who was manifested in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16)? Who must this be referring to?

Tuesday: God Shed His Blood for the church!

1. Ephesians 5:25: Who gave Himself for the church?
2. Acts 20:28: In this verse, the church is referred to as "the church of _____." What did the "God" of this verse purchase? What did the "God" of this verse purchase the church with? So, Who must the word "God" in this verse be referring to – the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit? So, is Jesus referred to as "God" in this verse?

Wednesday: Jesus is our "Great God and Savior."

1. Titus 2:13: God's people are looking for the glorious appearing of Whom? Our "Savior Jesus Christ" is also our "Great _____."
2. John 20:27-29: What did Jesus tell Thomas to do? After doing so, what did Thomas say to Jesus? Did Jesus rebuke Thomas for calling Him God? Or, did Jesus bless Thomas for recognizing that Jesus was his God?

Thursday: Jesus referred to Himself as God.

1. John 8:57-59: Jesus declared, "Before Abraham was, _____."

2. In verse 59, what was the Jews reaction when Jesus said this? Would they have reacted this way if they had not thought Jesus was claiming to be deity just like the Father?
3. Exodus 3:13-14: When the children of Israel would ask Moses for the name of God, what did God tell Moses to say? Do you see a parallel between this and Jesus claim to be "I AM?" Is this not what angered the Jews and made them want to stone Jesus?

Friday: Jesus accepted worship, something no angel is allowed to do.

1. Matthew 2:11: When the wise men came to Jesus, they fell down and did what?
2. Matthew 14:33: What did those in the boat do to Jesus? Did Jesus rebuke them for it?
3. Matthew 28:9: What did the women do to Jesus? Did he forbid them to do so?
4. Acts 10:25-26: What did Cornelius do to Peter? Did Peter stop him from doing it?
5. Revelation 22:8-9: Who did John try to worship? Did the angel accept the worship? Who did the angel tell John to worship? Jesus accepted worship, and angels cannot accept worship. This being so, could Jesus be Michael the Archangel as some claim?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Eli Todd
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- Lord's Table.....Eli Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Eli Todd

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**