

INTRODUCTION

“[Jesus] saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”. – Matthew 16:15-16

If Jesus asked you: “Who do you say that I am?” What would you answer? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is truly the Son OF God? Do you know what it means to say: “*Jesus is the Son of God*”? You may ask me: *Does it matter?* The TRUTH is: You cannot understand the Greatest Love Story ever told --**John 3:16**-- without a proper understanding of Christ’s Son-ship; And be certain you cannot experience the fulness of God’s love and power without this knowledge [1st John 5:5]. This book is written to clarify the teachings concerning Christ’s Sonship; to show the simplicity of the Biblical message and to give us a better understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his Majesty.

I pray that God blesses you as you read our booklet and that when you finish it you will have a greater appreciation for the person of Jesus Christ, and the sacrifice that God made for us; when he gave his Son.

Sincerely

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FATHER AND SON SHOWN TO BE TWO PERSONS.

When God explained to the world his love for it, he summed it up in the following verse: **John 3:16** 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.

The only way this verse can be understood properly is to realize that the Person called GOD here gave another Person, who is called the “Son”, for a perishing world. Without believing that the Father and Son are two persons we cannot understand the love of GOD as described in John 3:16. So we think it would be wise to open up our study by showing that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son, are two distinct persons.

First let us explain by “person” we do NOT mean “human being”, but rather an “Individual intellect” or a “Being with his own mind”. In this case angels are persons, humans are persons, and we shall see that the Father and Son are two persons. Some have before objected that the Father should not be called a “Person”, but he is called thus in the Scriptures.

Here Christ is said to be the image of the Father’s person:

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,

Not only is God said to be a “person”, but also the Son is said to be a person:

2 Corinthians 2:10 for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ

You see BOTH the Father and Son are persons. Notice that I used the word “BOTH” when speaking of the Father and Son. The word “Both” when referring to persons, must refer to two. And it is used in that manner in the Scriptures concerning the Father and Son.

2 John 1:9 ...He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

John 15:24 but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

Jesus himself testified that the joint witness of him and his Father, was the witness of two persons.

John 8:17-18 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men [persons] is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

THE FATHER AND SON LOVE EACH OTHER

Another proof that the Father and Son are two persons is the fact that they “love” one another.

Jesus said: “I love the Father” – **John 14:31**

The Father has said: “This is my beloved Son”. – **Matthew 3:17**

And Jesus explained: “the Father hath loved me” – **John 15:9**

In the Greek language, which these Scriptures were first written, there were seven different words for “love”, and each had a special meaning. The word used for “love” in these above instances is: agapao. And “agapao” is a special “love” that can only be shared among PERSONS. It can never refer to ‘self’ love.

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE FATHER AND SON.

Unless we believe that God is a “Schizophrenic” person, who likes to talk with himself, then we must believe the Father and Son are two persons, seeing that they communed together often. Here is one example of the Son praying to the Father and the Father answering his Son.

John 12:27-28 ... Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Another proof that the Father and Son are two distinct persons is the fact that God reveals things to the Son. A person cannot reveal anything to himself!

John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

Notice that God gave Jesus the Revelation.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

VISUAL PROOF THAT THE FATHER AND SON ARE TWO PERSONS

While we are in the Book of Revelation I want to notice how John saw in vision [*not with the natural eyes, but in the Spirit*] that the Father and Son were two distinct persons. Notice John sees God Almighty sitting upon His Throne with a book in his right hand.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Then he sees Jesus come and take the book from the right hand of God.

Revelation 5:6-7 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

And **Revelation 5:9** makes is very plain that the Lamb is Jesus Christ. Clearly the Father and Son are two distinct persons!

HOW ARE THE FATHER AND SON ONE?

One statement that people become confused about is **John 10:30** where Jesus stated: **“I and my Father are one”**. What does scripture teach about this *oneness*? Can two persons be called “one”? Of course! Christ said that a man and woman, when they marry become one flesh [Mark 10:8]. But notice how Jesus himself explained the oneness that he shares with his Father.

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 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 17:20-22.**

Clearly Jesus was praying for the disciples to be unified in love, purpose and Spirit (John 14:20-26). They remained separate persons, yet they had one mind and one accord, through the unity of the Holy Ghost. Some people say *“The Father lived in the Son”*! Yes, indeed; but God the Father dwells inside all true believers, but that doesn’t take the individuality of that person away [1 Corinthians 6:19].

THE SUBORDINATION OF THE SON.

The Scriptures also teach us that the person of the Son is subordinate in authority to the Father. Only persons can be subordinate to each other.

1Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

“My Father is greater than I” **John 14:28.**

THE ETERNAL SUBJECTION OF CHRIST

Notice in the following verses that Christ will always be subject to the Father, who put everything under his feet: **1Corinthians 15:27-28** For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Also Christ has received Power/Authority from the Father. We cannot give “power” to ourselves.

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” **Matthew 28:18.**

And who gave Christ this power?

“As thou (Father) hast given him power over all flesh” **John 17:2.**

The Bible teaches us that the Father loved the Son. The Father gave the Son. The Father was with the Son. The Father sent the Son. The Father commanded the Son. The Father gave to the Son. The Father spoke to the Son. And the Father and Son were separated at the Cross [see **Mark 15:34**]. My friends these things can only be true if the Father and Son are two distinct persons.

MORE VERSES FOR YOU TO CONSIDER.

Here is a list of verses that show plainly that the Father and the Son are two distinct persons. If you still are not convinced then please look up these Scriptures for yourself.

1st Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve **the living and true God, and to wait for His Son** from heaven, **whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus** who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Also read the following verses: John 8:54, 17:3, 20:17 – Act 3:26 – Roman 1:3-4, 7 –

Ephesians 1:2-3, 17, 5:20, 6:23 – 1Corinthians 1:3, 9, 8:6 – 2Corinthians 1:2-3, 11:31 – Galatians 1:3
Philippians 1:2, 2:11 – Colossians 1:2-3 – 1Thessalonians 1:1,3, 3:11-13 – 2Thessalonians 1:1-2, 2:16,
1Timothy 1:2, 2:5, 5:21 – 2Timothy 1:2, 4:1 – Titus 1:4 – Philemon 1:3 – James 1:1 – 1Peter 1:2-3 Jude 1:1
– 2John 1:3 – Revelation 1:1, 3:12, 5:6, 7:10, 7:17, 14:4, 21:22, 22:1-3

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF THE SON

We have thus far proven from Scriptures that the Father and Son are two persons. Now we wish to examine the person of the Son. When did this Son come into existence? Did he “Begin” at the virgin birth as Mary’s child as some would say? Or did he pre-exist? What did God give for us? Did he simply give a man? The following section is written to answer this question.

First we ask: Where does God dwell? Jesus when he prayed to his Father said, “Our Father who art in Heaven” [Matthew 6:9]. Clearly God the Father dwells in heaven.[Also see Psalms 11:4]

Where did Jesus say he lived before he came to earth?

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

John 6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

For Jesus to be where he was before he would have to ascend up. The heavens are up aren’t they?

Did Jesus have to come down from heaven to be born as a man?

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me
Clearly Jesus came down from heaven. When God gave his Son, he sent him from heaven to earth.

Does Jesus want us to believe that he was with God before he came into the world?

John 16:27-30 The Father loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I left the Father and came into the world. Again, as I've said, I'm going to leave the world and go back to the Father." His disciples said, "Now you're talking in plain words and not using examples. Now we know that you know everything. You don't need to wait for questions to be asked. Because of this, we believe that you have come from God."

HOW LONG HAS JESUS EXISTED?

Clearly Jesus was a person before he was born of Mary, but how long had he pre-existed? Let's look at the Scriptures and see for ourselves.

Who was with the Children of Israel when they escaped the Egyptian bondage?

1Corinthians 10:2-4 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. [also see 1st Corinthians 10:9]

So we see that Jesus was there when Moses lead the Children of Israel through the Red Sea and through the wilderness! These things took place about fourteen-hundred years before the virgin birth.

Who appeared to Joshua?

Joshua 5:13-15 ¶ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

This person was the one who lead the Angels of GOD into battle, and his very presence made the ground holy! He also accepted the worship of Joshua. My friends, this can only be ONE PERSON, the Divine Son of the living GOD! (*This was not the Father for no man has seen the Father [John 1:18], and this was not a mere created angel, for they will not accept worship*). Again this is about fourteen-hundred years before the virgin birth.

Abraham lived about two thousand years before Jesus was born of Mary, did Jesus exist before Abraham was born?

John 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad. The Jews therefore said unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am. [ASV]

Here Jesus plainly testifies that he existed before Abraham was even born! Abraham lived about two-thousand years before Jesus spoke these words.

Was Jesus there when Satan was first cast out of Heaven?

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

We know that Satan was in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve as a Serpent, so he had to be cast out of heaven in the very beginning of time [Ezekiel 28:13-16], and here Jesus testified that he had beheld the casting out of Satan. This took place four-thousand years before the virgin birth.

Was someone with GOD when he created this world?

Genesis 1:26 And God said, **Let us** make man in **our** image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Yes, someone was with GOD, who also had the image of GOD, for he says “Our image/our likeness”. Whom do you think this could be?

2Corinthians 4:4 “Christ, who is the image of God”

Whom does the bible teach was with GOD during creation?

Ephesians 3:9 ... God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

God created all things THROUGH a person, that person is Jesus.

Did God create all things through his Son? Hebrews 1:1-2 ¶ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

THE INCARNATION WAS NOT A BEGINNING

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ pre-existed as the Son of GOD, and that he was there at Creation with his Father. The virgin birth was not the Beginning of Christ’s person, but what took place there is called the “Incarnation”. That is this Spiritual “Person” who was with God from the beginning, became a human in the womb of Mary or as **John 1:14** states: “The Word was made Flesh”. Notice the Testimony of Scriptures to this fact.

Philippians 2:5-8 Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Although from the beginning He had the nature of God He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, He stripped Himself of His glory, and took on Him the nature of a bondservant by becoming a man like other men. And being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross. (WEYMOUTH) [also see 2nd Corinthians 8:9]

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Now that we have seen from Scriptures that Christ pre-existed as a distinct person with God the Father, we will now study to see “WHAT” kind of person Jesus Christ is. There are some in 'Christendom' today, who deny the Divinity of Jesus Christ; Some teach that Christ pre-existed as a created angel, others teach that the ‘impersonal’ Word, or Message from God lived inside the man named Jesus. We ask: What kind of Son did God give?

Let’s read the first two verses of John and see what he tells us about his gift.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (Divine). The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by HIM; and without HIM was not any thing made that was made.

John tells us that this Word that was with GOD in the beginning of time is not an impersonal 'message', but he is a personal being, he is called HIM. God created all things by/through this person called the WORD. Also note that John is not saying that the "WORD" was another 'god', but he was God. He has the very nature of the one he was with.

Why is this person called the WORD? The word reveals the thoughts of ones heart. JESUS reveals the heart of the Father to us. He has always done that. He is the visible image, of the invisible God.

How does Paul say everything has come into existence?

1st Corinthians 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

The Bible teaches the Father is the source of all things, all things are OF him, and it teaches that Jesus is the channel, through/by which all things were made.

WHEN WAS CHRIST BEGOTTEN?

Colossians 1:15-16 Who is the image of the invisible God, the FIRSTBORN OF EVERY CREATURE: **For** by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Here Jesus is declared the Firstborn of every creature. What does this phrase mean? Firstborn is translated from the Greek word protokos, and it simply means: first-born.

Thus we see in these verses that Paul is telling us that Christ was ‘Begotten First or Born Before all creation’, for/because all of creation was created by God through Christ (Ephesians 3:9).

This is also the explanation given to us concerning this verse in the **Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon**: “Christ is called, firstborn of all creation, who came into being through God prior to the entire universe of created things”.

Wigram’s Greek Lexicon tells us the following: “Or it may be; born before all creation”.

Jamieson, Faussett and Brown Bible Commentary has this to add: “Translate, "Begotten (literally, 'born') before every creature," as the context shows, which gives the reason why He is so designated. "For," (see Col_1:16-17).

Matthew Henry's Commentary states the following: "He was born or begotten before all the creation, before any creature was made;"

In other Bible translations verse fifteen read this way:

15 Who is the image of the unseen God coming into existence before all living things; (BBE)

15 Now Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. He was born before creation began, (PHIL)

Was Jesus begotten before he came to the earth? 1st John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

The Bible teaches that God sent his only begotten Son down from heaven.

THE IMPORTANCE OF: "BORN BEFORE ALL CREATION"

The Bible teaches that Christ existed with the Father before all creation, and was actually the channel by which God created all things. This means that Christ is not a "Creature", because he pre-existed all creation! [John 1:2] A "Creature" is something whose *substance* [the stuff he is made of] was brought forth from NOTHING. Humans are creatures because we are made of dirt, and dirt was created from nothing. Everything we see in this world is a part of creation.

Now Christ isn't a creature, because he existed before all creation as a Spirit Being. If Christ wasn't brought forth from nothing, then where did he come from? There is but one place he could come from, and that is the substance of GOD. He was begotten from GOD before all creation. As Children are brought forth from the substance of their parents, Christ was brought forth from the substance of his Father.

For example when my wife gave birth to my daughter, she didn't give birth to a 'foreign' substance; Stacy was made up of the same material as her Mother. They were both of the same flesh and bone. When God brought forth his Son from his bosom, he had to be of the same substance as his Father. So you see the Father and Son are made of the same stuff, which is Divinity, or what some call "The Godhead".

THE DIVINE NATURE OF CHRIST

Now let's read John 1:1 again: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (Divine).

Now here John isn't telling us that the Word was the same person as "The God" he was with; and he is not saying that the Word was '*another god*', as in some sort of Ruler, or mighty man; but John is telling us that the WORD, the pre-existent Son, had the very nature of GOD. He is truly Divine or God by nature.

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ pre-existed as the Divine Son of GOD, and shared in the glory and riches of GOD, but he emptied himself of this glory, and became a man, the poorest of the poor.

Philippians 2:5-8 Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Although from the beginning He had the nature of God He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, He stripped Himself of His glory, and took on Him the nature of a bondservant by becoming a man like other men. And being recognized as truly human, He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross. (WEYMOUTH)

Again, I will use the example of my wife and daughter. When my wife gave birth to Stacy, what other nature could she possess? She couldn't have been a kangaroo, or a whale, but Stacy had to be a human. She had to be born with the same NATURE as her parents. Like begets like. So when GOD brought forth his Son, his Son could only have one nature, and that is the nature of GOD.

Colossians 2:9 For it is in Christ that the fulness of God's nature dwells embodied, and in Him you are made complete, (WEYMOUTH)

THE EQUALITY OF THE FATHER AND SON

When God brought forth his Son, he brought him from his Substance, and with his very nature; in fact the fullness of his nature (Colossians 1:19)!

Again I want you to look at my wife and daughter, which one of them is "more" human? They are both equally human, they have the same nature. Just because my daughter was begotten from her mother, doesn't make her any less human than her mother.

Christ has the same nature as his Father, thus by nature he is equal to his Father.

Christ is from the very substance of GOD, and thus he is equal to his Father in substance.

Notice the following verse: **John 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

The Jews were ready to stone Jesus because he had made himself "equal" with God. How did he do that? They said because he claimed that God was his Father.

Now this is an important passage, for you see the Jews claimed God to be their Father [John 8:41], and it was commonly taught that God was the Father of the whole human race [Acts 17:28]. We Christians also claim God as our Father. **What was so different about Jesus' Claim? It was the fact that he claimed to be the Only begotten Son of God. A "Begotten" Son always has the nature of his Father!**

The term "only begotten" in your Bible comes from the Greek word "Monogenes". And what is the specific meaning of monogenes in the New Testament? It is used only in reference to sons or daughters, in view of the literal relationship that exists between parent and offspring. It is used repeatedly by Christian writers who lived closest to the age of the Apostles to denote the filial relationship between God and Christ.

When Jesus claimed to be the "only begotten" Son of GOD, he was teaching that he was the LITERAL Son of GOD, and thus making himself equal with God in nature.

BUT THE FATHER IS GREATER?

John 14:28 [Jesus] said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

If the Father and Son are equal in substance and nature, then why is the Father greater than the Son?

Now again look at my Wife and Stacy our daughter. Though they are equally human, who is greater? In most ways my wife is greater. For example my wife is greater in age, in stature, in strength, and in authority. Yet they

are both equally human.

For another example who is greater, men or women, the man or wife? 1 Peter 3:7 tells us that the woman is the “*weaker vessel*”.

Though men and women share the same nature, and consist of the same substance, yet man is the stronger vessel. Man has been given authority to rule his house hold. The same example is given for Christ and GOD.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Because Christ’s life, substance, nature, power and authority are all derived from the being of the Father, Christ recognizes the Supremacy of the Father and honors the Father as his Lord and GOD [John 20:17, Revelation 3:12]. He submits happily to the will of the Father. You see, the Father isn’t greater in Substance or nature, but he is of greater authority.

THE SON SHARES IN THE FATHER’S GODHEAD.

The term “Godhead” refers to the Divinity or the Divine nature and substance of GOD. The Bible teaches that Christ shares in the Godhead of the Father.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

We have seen that Jesus is truly the only begotten Son of GOD, and because he is truly the Son he has received his Father’s nature and substance. Because the Son shares in the Father’s Nature and Substance, he does not constitute another “Godhead”. There is only one Godhead [Divine Nature and Substance] and the Son is a part of it. So you see, it is right to say: The Father and Son are two persons of One Godhead.

CHRIST IS FROM ETERNITY

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Here Micah tells us that Jesus Christ’s origin (goings forth – see ‘Brown Driver and Brigg Hebrew Lexicon. The RSV, the GW and other translations) is from everlasting or eternity. .

The Septuagint literally reads: **Whose “arche {beginning} ek {is from} hemera {the days} aion {eternity}”** As we have read Christ Jesus existed with God before all creation, and here we are told that his origin is found in eternity. Let me attempt to explain this.

When the Bible speaks about ‘eternity past’, it means before temporal time. Time as we know it is temporal, it is all based upon the physical attributes of creation. We base our years on the circuit the earth takes around the sun. We base our 24 hour days on the rotation of the earth. The months are based on the moon. Temporal time began at creation. Christ was born before temporal time, and thus his ‘origin’ is from eternity.

THE ETERNAL YET BEGOTTEN SON

In **1st Corinthians 1:24** Christ is called the “Wisdom of God”. Wisdom originates in the heart (mind). God’s wisdom originates in his heart also. In other places Jesus is called the WORD of GOD. A person’s Word is his thoughts/wisdom revealed. The Bible teaches that Christ the Word, is the revealed Wisdom of GOD. Many Christians through out the centuries have believed that Christ existed in the heart of God and then was begotten as the Son, when God first spoke.

The following passage of Scripture was used very widely by the early Christian Church to teach that Jesus is truly the Divine and only begotten Son of GOD: Listen as the pre-incarnate Christ speaks.

Proverbs 8:22-31 ¶ The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up (anointed/Christ) from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth (Begotten/Born); when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth (Begotten/Born): While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

The Christian author L. Martin wrote:

“It is a fact that a person may exist and yet have no conscious awareness or any visible appearance. This is true of all human beings who pre-existed genetically in their immediate parents and even in Adam just as Levi pre-existed in Abraham (Heb. 7:9)... This raises the question: couldn’t it be possible that in some mysterious sense beyond the comprehension of finite human beings, Christ pre-existed as a Person immanent within the Father’s bosom and was subsequently begotten as the mono-genes? The Apostolic Fathers, who lived nearest to the New Testament writers, who knew them and heard them speak, saw no tension in the paradox of the eternity of Christ and the fact that He was the literal begotten Son of God the Father. They simply believed that Christ preexisted as the [Wisdom] of the Father who was made audible (begotten) as the Word, an independent [person] without leaving the Father empty of His mind. This was the explanation widely held by those who lived in a period when the church received a glowing commendation from the Savior (Rev. 2:9); a period when the church was not torn by unending theological controversies, divisions, wars and deceptious schemes.”

For another example with my wife and daughter. For nine months my wife carried Stacy in her womb. Was Stacy a person while she was in her womb? Yes, she definitely was. Yet she didn’t become a distinct/visible person until she was born. In the same way Christ existed in the heart of GOD as Wisdom from all eternity; and was begotten as the Word before all creation.

Also we must confess, that if the Son existed within the heart of GOD as Wisdom as the Scriptures teach and as the early church preached, then Christ is eternal because God has never been without wisdom. Christ was always in his Father, And then when God spoke, the Wisdom became the Word and the Son was born, before all Creation.

THE HISTORIC CHRIST

In the previous studies we have set forth from the Scriptures alone the doctrine of Christ’s pre-existence and his “Eternal Sonship” [*that is, he was begotten from the Father as a distinct person before creation*]. Now we wish

to show that this doctrine is also the historic teaching of the Church concerning Christ; that from the Apostles even until today, God's people have believed that Jesus is indeed, "The Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God".

Ignatius [A.D. 30-107]

"But our Physician is the only true God, the unbegotten and unapproachable, the Lord of all, the Father and Begetter of the only-begotten Son. We have also as a Physician the Lord our God, Jesus the Christ, the only-begotten Son and Word, before time began, but who afterwards became also man, of Mary the virgin." (*"Ante-Nicene Fathers," Volume 1, Ignatius, "Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians," chapter 7*)

"...Jesus Christ. He, being begotten by the Father before the beginning of time was...the only-begotten Son, and remains the same for ever; for "of His kingdom there shall be no end," says Daniel the prophet." (*"Ante-Nicene Fathers," Volume 1, Ignatius, "To the Magnesians," chapter 6*)

Justin Martyr [A.D. 110-165]

"For I have already proved that He was the only-begotten of the Father of all things, being begotten in a peculiar manner Word and Power by Him, and having afterwards become man through the Virgin, as we have learned from the memoirs." (*"Ante-Nicene Fathers," Volume 1, Justin Martyr, "Dialogue with Trypho," chapter 105*)

Justin Martyr, quoting from Proverbs 8, refers to Christ in the following statement:

"The Lord possessed me the beginning of His ways for His works.... He begets me before all the hills." He adds: "You perceive, my hearers, if you bestow attention, that the Scripture has declared that this Offspring was begotten by the Father before all things created; and that which is begotten is numerically distinct from that which begets, any one will admit." (Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*, Chapter CXXIX)

Theophilus [AD 181]:

"He that is uncreated stands in need of nothing. God, then, having His own Word internal with in His bowels, begat Him, emitting Him along with His own wisdom before all things." *Theophilus of Antioch, To Autolytus, II:10 (c.A.D. 181), in ANF, II:97-98*

Irenaeus of Lyons [189 AD] wrote:

"For the Church, although dispersed throughout the whole world even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and from their disciples the faith in one God, Father Almighty, the creator of heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them; and in one Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (*Against Heresies 1:10:1, A. D. 189*)

Tertullian [216 AD] wrote:

"We do indeed believe that there is only one God, but we believe that under this dispensation, or, as we say, oikonomia, there is also a Son of this one only God, his Word, who proceeded from him and through whom all things were made and without whom nothing was made." (*Against Praxeas 2, A. D. 216*)

Origen [222 AD] wrote:

"The specific points which are clearly handed down through the apostolic preaching are these: First, that there is one God who created and arranged all things, and who, when nothing existed, called all things into existence, and that in the final period this God, just as he had promised beforehand through the prophets, sent the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, that Jesus Christ himself, who came, was born of the Father before all creatures; and after he had ministered to the Father in the creation of all things, for through him all things were made." (*The Fundamental Doctrines 1:0:4, A.D. 225*)

Novatian [235 AD] wrote:

"God the Father, founder and creator of all things, who alone knows no beginning, who is invisible, immeasurable, immortal, and eternal, is one God. Neither his greatness nor his majesty nor his power can possibly be—I should not say

exceeded, for they cannot even be equaled. From him... the Word was born, his Son... And the latter, since he was born of the Father, is always in the Father. And I indeed say always... He that exists before all time must be said to have been in the Father always, for he that exists before all time cannot be spoken of in relation to time.... Assuredly, he [the Son] is God, proceeding from God, causing, as Son, a second person after the Father, but not taking away from the Father the fact that God is one.” (Treatise on the Trinity 31, A.D. 235)

Eusebius -275AD wrote:

“The second cause of the universe next to the Father, the true and only Son of the Father, and the Lord and God and King of all created things, who has received power, and dominion with divinity itself, and power and honour from the Father... Where he introduces the Father and maker as the Ruler of all, commanding with His sovereign nod, but the divine word as next to Him, the very same that is proclaimed to us, as ministering to His Father’s commands... The Son Himself, however, by no means indifferent to the worship of the Father, is appointed to teach the knowledge of the Father to all... Of Him, Moses obviously speaks as the second after the Father,... intrusted with the second rank of sovereignty and rule over all, ‘the captain of the Lord’s host,...’” (Eusebius’ Ecclesiastical History, pages 15-17)

NICEAN CREED 325 AD:

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and born of the Father before all ages. Light of light, true God of true God. Begotten not made, consubstantial to the Father, by whom all things were made.”

Epiphanius of Salamis [374 AD] wrote:

“We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things, both visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of God the Father, only-begotten, that is, of the substance of the Father; God of God, light of light, true God of true God; begotten, not made;...” (The Man Well-Anchored 120, A.D. 374)

Clearly the teaching that Christ is the Son of God, born before Creation, was and is the bedrock doctrine of the Church! It is the only doctrine that guarantees that Christ preexisted as a Divine person, prior to Creation, while leaving intact there is but One God. Those who fight against this truth, are foolishly fighting against the very teaching of Christ.

CONCLUSION

Finally, we conclude with the most important reason for believing that Christ is the eternal Son of GOD, and that is because this relationship is key to understanding the full measure of God’s love for those whom He redeems through the blood of Christ. The fact that God the Father, took His Son, the very Son He loved from before the foundation of the world [John 17:24] and sent Him to be a sacrifice for our sins [John 3:16-17] is an amazing act of grace and love that can only be understood from the doctrine of eternal Sonship.

What was God willing to give to save us? A mere human body? A thirty-three year old man? A created angel? NO! He gave his beloved Son! The Son that had always been with him, God gave his greatest possession. [Romans 5:8-10]. My friends the greatness of this sacrifice, proves the greatness of God’s love for us [1st John 4:9]. As Paul said:

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Believing Jesus Christ is truly the Son of GOD is the key to the Gospel [John 3:16, 20:31, 1st John 5:11-20, Matthew 16:16-17]. And it is the key to overcoming the world.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

To teach anything contrary to this is to do great damage to the Gospel [1st John 2:22].

I pray that this booklet has been a blessing to you and that now you can say assuredly that “Jesus Christ is truly the only begotten Son of GOD”.

“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

Sincerely *Pastor Martin Eldon Bledsoe*