

EXPLORING THE DEITY OF CHRIST IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2-3

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1: [2] To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: [3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: The Name Christ [Jesus] is mentioned 10 times in 10 verses.

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus[1], and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus[2], called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ[3], both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ[4].

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus[5], 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ[6] was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ[7], 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ[8]. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord[9].

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ[10], that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Argument: One argument to deny the Deity of Christ – He never claimed himself to be God. Secondly, the apostles did not view Jesus as God. But this is wrong. Jesus did claim He is God and apostles did view Christ as God. Let us study further.

IMPLICATIONS OF CHRIST'S DEITY IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2-3

1. "...all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Calling upon the name [represents Person] of our Lord Jesus Christ means

- Praying to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ with complete hope in Him.

In the entire Bible, the phrase “call upon the name” is used only in the context of calling upon unto God. Citing just few Scriptures:

- **Gen. 4:26**, “To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.”
- **1 Ki. 18:24**, “And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.”
- **1 Chro. 16:8**, “Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!”
- **Joel 2:32**, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- **Rom. 10:13**, For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Observe: “Called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Question: Why should all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ if He is not God? Why should all call upon His Name if He is just a prophet or an angel? This implies the deity of Christ Jesus.

2. “...called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.” [Jesus Christ is the Lord of all]

Note: The term “Lord” [meaning “Master”] in the Scripture is applied both to human beings and God.

Few verses in which the term Lord being applied to human beings:

- **1Pet. 3:6**, “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (*kurion*). And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”
- **Col. 4:1**, “Masters (*kurioi*), treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master (*kurion*) in heaven.”
- **Gen. 24:18**, She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink.
- **Ruth 2:13**, Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

Most commonly the term Lord is applied to God:

- **1 Pet. 3:12**, “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- **Jas. 5:11**, “Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the **Lord**, how **the Lord** is compassionate and merciful.”
- In the Old Testament, the term LORD was applied to God. It is said, “**Adon** (singular form). Means **master, lord**. Adon can refer to men (most uses) or God. Adonai only refers to God.”

So, since the term “Lord” is applied to humans too, how can we say that Jesus is God because of the title “Lord” applied to His Name?

a) Jesus is the Lord of all:

- **1 Cor. 1:2**, “...called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **both their Lord and ours.**”
- **Rom. 10**, “9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; **for the same Lord is Lord of all**, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.”
- **Acts 10:36**, “As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all).” In Greek, literally “**this one is Lord of all.**”

App. Only God can be Lord of all, hence Christ is God because He is the Lord of all.

b) Jesus is the exclusive Lord:

- **Jude 4**, “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master (*despoten*, Sovereign, NIV) and Lord (*kurion*), Jesus Christ.”
- **Phi. 2:9** “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- **Rom. 14: 11** “for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

c) Jesus is the Lord of lords:

Note: “Lord of lords” is used only five times in the entire Bible.

- **Rev. 17:14**, “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is **Lord of lords** and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”
- **Rev. 19:15-16**, “From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and **Lord of lords.**”
- **Deut. 10:17**, “For the Lord your God is God of gods and **Lord of lords**, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.”
- **Ps. 136:3**, “Give thanks to the **Lord of lords**, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
- **1 Tim. 6:13-15**, “13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and **Lord of lords**, 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

Therefore, considering the uniqueness of such Lordship, Christ is God, not a mere lord.

3. “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:3).

This is a common greeting of Paul to all the churches and individuals (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phi. 1:2; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:2; Tit. 1:4; Phi. 1:3)

Grace (charis) – undeserved and unearned favor from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In my study, I have found out that grace is applied only from God to man, not from man to man [grace of God, grace from God...etc.]

Who can show grace? God alone. If Jesus is no God how are these words applied to Him:

- Grace of God *distinctively* (13 times)
- Grace of Lord Jesus/Christ *distinctively* (15 times)
- Grace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ *together* (13 times)

Peace (eirene) – inner well-being and wholesomeness from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ *together* (12 times)

Who can give peace? Only God. If Jesus is no God, then how can He give peace?

- **Phi. 4:7**, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
- **Col. 3:15**, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

App. Since grace and peace comes only from God, since grace and peace also comes from Christ, Christ is none but God who alone can give grace and peace.

Observe the Following Terms which show the Equality of Father and Son:

- **1 Cor. 1:3**, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- **Rom. 8:9**, “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”
- **Eph. 5:5**, “For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”
- **1 Thess. 2:9**, “For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”
 - **1 Thess. 3:1-2**, “Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith...”
- **Rom. 8:35**, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?”
 - **Rom. 8:38-39**, “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Summary:

We observe Christ's deity in **1 Corinthians 1: 2-3**, “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those

- who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [this phrase applies only to God]
- both their Lord and ours:
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Name: _____

1. What does it mean “to call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”?
2. How can we view “calling upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” as a proof of His deity?
3. Give two examples in which the term “lord” is applied to human beings?
4. What three evidences can we take to prove that the Lordship of Christ is unique, hence proving His deity?
5. What is the meaning of “Grace”?
6. Considering the fact that grace and peace comes from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, how can we take this as an evidence to prove Christ’s deity?
7. In what way did this message encourage your heart?
8. Feel free to write below your doubts or questions regarding the teaching you have heard.

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