

## EFCA Doctrinal Statement 4 part 3

5/21/18

We are thinking through both the nature and work of Christ in our doctrinal statement. Both of these are the heart of the gospel of Jesus. The good news of Christianity is that God made a way for us to be rescued, redeemed, and renewed. That way, and the only, is through Jesus the Christ. (John 14:6) Christianity is about the person and the work of Christ in redeeming us.

I have often said that Christianity is Jesus plus nothing. That is absolutely true, but it is about all of who Jesus is, and all of what He has done, wants to do, and will do in the process of redeeming us.

Last week we dipped our toes in the water just a bit considering what it means that Jesus was fully human. This week we are going to do the same thing with the truth that Jesus is also absolutely God.

It is important that we realize and accept the facts about Jesus' deity. We don't have time in this brief discussion to cover all of the "proofs" for the deity of Jesus. I am going to refer you to a link that has a pretty good listing of biblical reasons and references for the deity of Christ. [hunterscreekchurch.org/wp-content/.../Defending-The-Deity-Of-Christ-Handout.pdf](http://hunterscreekchurch.org/wp-content/.../Defending-The-Deity-Of-Christ-Handout.pdf) There are others that you can find, but that is a good one.

What I want to challenge us with is what it means for us. The fact that Jesus is indeed God has incredible implications and applications for us in our daily lives. Let's consider just a few.

- The fact that God would give up his position in glory for us demonstrates his amazing love for us, and if He did that for us, then there is nothing that can ever separate us from His love. (Philippians 2:1-11; Romans 8:37-39)
- Jesus' sacrifice for our sins is absolutely sufficient. There is nothing that can be added. We cannot make ourselves more acceptable to Him. (Hebrews 9-10) Therefore, we can have full assurance of our salvation. By faith we can take God at His Word in sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice. (Hebrews 10:19-23)
- God Almighty who gave Himself for us, continues to provide what we need for daily living. (Matthew 28:18, Hebrews 4:14; 10:19) As Almighty God He is not only a high priest who understands our difficulties and needs, He is also an all powerful High Priest who can and will provide grace and help in time of need.
- We can pray knowing that He hears and that He acts on our behalf. (John 14:12-14)

Here is the bottom line that I have been meditating on this week. The sovereign all powerful God of the universe gave up His rights and privileges as God to come to earth with all the struggles of living life on a fallen earth in order to rescue, redeem and renew our lives. If that is the case, then what doesn't He want to do to make give us life full of meaning and purpose. (John 10:10)

If that is the case, why is it that I so often do not live in the reality and power that the living God offers me as my Savior, Lord, and Master? Certainly the problem does not lay with Him and what He has done and is capable and willing to do in, to, and through us!

**Questions to consider:**

1. What is unique among religions about Christianity's claim that Jesus is God?
2. Why is it significant that God Himself took on flesh for our redemption?
3. What are the implications for us on a daily basis that our Savior was God in flesh, not simply a man who died for us?
4. What one verse or passage can you pick to focus on this week, that will make the reality of Jesus' deity practical in your life this week?