

## Was Jesus God's Only Begotten Son?

According to John 3:16, Jesus is God's "*only begotten son*." Generally speaking, to "*beget*" simply means to give birth. What this means is that Jesus is unique. He was the only child birthed directly by God, the Father. He is different and separate from God in the same sense that a child is different from the parent. On the other hand, He is the same as God in the sense that He shares God's essence, which is spirit. God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, share the same spirit. Because of this, it can be said that Jesus is God. In John 10:30, Jesus referred to himself as "*one*" with the Father, and, in John 14:9, he said to Philip that "*whoever has seen me has seen the Father*." In John 1:1, Jesus, the *Logos*, "*was*" God and at the same time was "*with*" God. The Son and the Father are one in essence, with distinctly different egos or personalities. I would also add that the Sonship of Christ has nothing to do with his incarnation into a human body or the virgin birth. He was the unique Son of God before his physical birth, and upon death, he returned to the Father, from whence he came.

Jesus and God the Father, although different, are one and the same in the sense that a human father and son share the same physical essence. A human child shares the same DNA as the parent. Because of this, the child shares many of the same physical attributes as the parent. The child is representative of the parent. When you look at the child and observe the child's behavior, it is similar in many ways to observing the parent. They both share the same fleshly nature. They are both human. They both have two arms and two legs, one nose, two eyes, and often similar personalities. No one would say that my father and I are exactly the same, in every respect, but I am more like my father than anyone else.

Jesus taught that we are all God's children. He referred to God as "*our*" father and "*your*" father in many places. The Apostle Paul referred to us as God's "*offspring*" in Act's 17:29. We are also taught in Scripture that we may "*become*" children of God (1 John 1:12) and may become "*adopted*" heirs of God (Romans 8:17). What does all this mean? Are we all actually children of God, or are we only potentially children of God? There is a sense in which both are true. Jesus illustrated the difference in the story of the Prodigal Son. When the son left home, in his conscious awareness he ceased to be his father's son, and he believed that he would receive no further inheritance. In actual fact, however, his father never actually ceased to be his father. When the son finally returned home, he learned to his amazement that his father still regarded him as his son and he was fully restored into the father-son relationship. So the difference was only in the mind of the son. Christian salvation, in my view, should be viewed as an awakening of sorts, an awakening to the realization that God always was, still is, and always will be our loving heavenly Father.

This, of course, begs the question, if Jesus is God's "*only begotten Son*," how can it be that we are also God's children. The answer is that we are God's children by extension. Jesus is God, in the sense that He shares the very essence or "*body parts*" of God, and we were created from the very essence of Jesus. Read Colossians 1:16: "*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*" According to the Apostle Paul, all creation, including each of us, was literally birthed by Jesus. We were created through Him and for Him. Jesus was the intermediary through whom God made us. This is like saying that Jesus is

our father and God is our grandfather. We are all made of the same stuff, which is the spirit of God. We are all made out of God parts. God didn't create Jesus from nothing. Jesus was created from a piece of God himself. We were not created out of nothing. We were created from a piece of Jesus, from the Spirit of Jesus, which is the same as the spirit of God. In Romans 8:9, the *Spirit of God* and the *Spirit of Christ* are used interchangeably.

According to John 10:33, Jesus was accused of blasphemy because He claimed to be God. Jesus actually never claimed to be God the Father in every respect, only that He was representative of God, that He pre-existed His Earthly existence, that God was His father, that He was one with the father, and that He had authority from God to do miracles, heal the sick, and forgive sins.

Technically, everything in existence is a part of God, because it all emanated from God, either directly or indirectly, through Jesus. All creation is technically part of the divine Godhead. In Jesus Christ, *all things were created and hold together*. (Colossians 1:17). According to Acts 17:28, "*in Him* (God and also Jesus Christ) *we all live, and move, and have our being.*" Like bees in a bee hive, we are individual entities, but are all integral parts of a larger entity, called the hive, which in many ways acts as a single entity. As parts of the hive we are all invisibly connected with one another. Paul used the analogy of the "*Body of Christ,*" of which we are all individual parts, each with unique functions and tasks. See Romans 12.

Nothing exists apart from God. The essence of God is infused into every aspect of creation. Our separateness from God is an illusion. Christian salvation may be regarded as a "waking up" from the illusion and realizing that we have never been physically separated from God the Father and His Son Jesus. We have never been separated from His love. See Romans 8:38-39. Christian salvation may be regarded as a coming home of sorts and realizing that God has always been, and always will be, our loving Heavenly Father. We have always been loved and sustained by His *only begotten Son*, Jesus Christ, who made us, and indwells us, and connects our human spirit with the Spirit of God.