

Dear Gina,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if Jesus is also God.

We believe that God and his Son Jesus are two separate entities. God's very first creative act was his Son, the Word, or Logos, by which and through which all things were made (John 1:1-3; Proverbs. 8:22-31; John 1:10; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:2). In John 1:1 the Greek definite article is used to distinguish the Father as "the God" from the Son, who is called "a god." Although the Greek language contains no indefinite article corresponding to the English "a," the indefinite article is implied by the context and, therefore, must be included in the English translation. Benjamin Wilson gives the correct rendering in his Emphatic Diaglott: "In a beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and a god was the Word." When translated correctly, John 1:1 becomes significant in its contrast between the Father, who is called "the God," and the Word or Representative of the Most High God, who is himself "a god." This concept is further clarified in John 1:18, which emphatically states that Jesus was begotten. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." A son can never be his own father, nor can it be claimed that a son never had a beginning, for the term 'son' implies a life existence that had a beginning, and which was derived from a father.

Colossians 1:15 addresses the separateness of God and his Son. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." "Image" in Strong's Concordance means "a faintness as a copy; to resemble or to be like; representation; resemblance." "Firstborn" means to be "foremost in place, order or importance; best, first of all." These definitions clarify the meaning of Colossians 1:15. Jesus is a representation of God, a copy in that he resembled God. He was God's first, foremost and best creation. Furthermore, if we look at what Jesus says about himself, we can determine who he is. Jesus says, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me." (John 7:16) This statement verifies the father-son relationship. In the next verse, Jesus says, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own." This statement emphatically defines the separateness between him and his Father. God and Jesus have separate wills, and Jesus does the will of God. "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38) Jesus says that he and his Father are separate beings and that his Father is greater than he (John 14:28; 1 Corinthians 15:28).

After establishing that God and his son are separate beings, we need to determine if Jesus was divine at his creation. If you believe that Jesus was divine there is a problem because divinity means immortality, and, therefore, inability to die. Was his death on the cross an act, or pretense? We think not. In Revelation 1:18 Jesus says, "I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!"

If Jesus was divine, what did Paul mean when he stated: "By one [man] shall many be made righteous" (Romans 5:19), "By man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:21).

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5) If you believe that Jesus was divine, his death is minimized. Since Adam was a perfect man who sinned, only another perfect man who did not sin could redeem not only him, but also his entire race. God knew that Jesus would need to actually die in order to redeem the fallen human race. After Jesus fulfilled his mission, he was resurrected divine and now sits at the right hand of God and is truly like God because he is immortal and cannot die.

Is Jesus also God? No, he is God's first and only direct creation. Jesus is God's Son, who was given the gift of immortality after he died a perfect, sinless, mortal man as a ransom for Adam and the entire human race.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio