

Major Cult Teachings Today

In our day there are no less dangerous doctrines afloat in the stream of so-called Christian cults. Two of those need special mention since they have so affected millions by distorting the scriptures and the truth of the deity of Jesus Christ.

Jehovah's Witnesses Teachings:

The Jehovah's Witnesses appear as harmless, perhaps over-zealous, do-gooders to many evangelical Christians. Yet most Christians are unaware of the realities of JW teachings concerning Jesus Christ. Here are just a few as they apply to the deity of Christ:

"Our Lord Jesus Christ is a god..." Studies in the Scriptures. Vol. V. p.55

Teaching: Jesus was a god, not 'the Almighty God, who is Jehovah'.

"Our Redeemer existed as a spirit being before he was made flesh, and dwelt amongst men. At that time as well as subsequently, he was properly known as 'a god' - a mighty one." Ibid. Vol. V, p 84

Teaching: At the beginning Jesus was created by God without the instrumentality of any mother. He was not an incarnation in flesh but was flesh, a human Son of God, a perfect man, no longer a spirit, although having a spiritual heavenly past and background.

"...the Logos [Christ] himself was 'the beginning of the creation of God.'" Ibid. Vol. V, p.86

Teaching: This One is not Jehovah God, but was existing in the form of God... he was a spirit person... he was a mighty one although not Almighty God. He was a god, not Almighty God.

"As chief of the angels and next to the Father, he [Christ] was known as the Archangel (highest angel or messenger), whose name, Michael, signifies, 'Who as God' or 'God's Representative.'" Ibid. Vol V. p. 84

Teaching: Jesus was a prince among other creatures. He bore another name in heaven, that of Michael the archangel. Other names were given to him in the course of time. (see Martin p. 51)

Mormon Teachings:

"God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man."

"The Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man's."

"When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his celestial wives, with him...He is our father and our God and the only God with whom we have to do."

"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

"Remember that God our Heavenly Father was perhaps once a child and mortal like we are, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement...until He has arrived at the point where He now is." (Martin, p.178)

What Should You Know?

Remember the purpose of this course is to build your knowledge for ministry, not just to get a good grade. Most people are minimalists, learning only what is necessary for a test but that is not good stewardship of our minds or our resources. We should seek to show ourselves approved UNTO GOD as workmen that never will be ashamed of our ability to rightly divide the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

That being the case we should seek to thoroughly understand and be able to effectively defend the deity of Jesus as we would in a court of law. So then what we need to know is how to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3) once delivered to the saints. Be able to biblically defend the deity of Jesus Christ.

If we were using essay questions I would pose one of the many deity passages and ask you to argue the deity of Christ based on that passage. Another way to test your knowledge would be to pose a challenge to the deity of Christ based on a Jehovah's Witness argument and ask you to defend the faith.

Another test would be to defend the deity of Christ from the Old Testament, or the gospels only, or from the Pauline epistles.

The real test of whether you have profited by this lesson is to ask yourself whether you could answer any of the previous challenges.

Memorize

(Where they are and what they say)

- The eight key passages from the New Testament
- The three Old Testament passages.
- The six passages from John's gospel.

Sources and Recommended Reading:

(It is not necessary to buy these books.)

Authur W. Pink, Gleanings In The Godhead, Moody Press, Chicago, 1975

Hurbert Lockyer, All the Doctrines of the Bible, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 1964

L. Berkhof, Systematic Theology, Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, 1939

Orville J. Nave, Nave's Topical Bible, Southwestern Co. Nashville, 1962

Walter Martin, Kingdom of the Cults,

Kenneth Scott LaTourett, A History of Christianity, Vol. 1, Harper and Row, New York, 1953

William Steuart McBirnie, The Search for the Twelve Apostles, Living Books/Tyndale, 1973