

## Facts of the Faith (4)

### Jesus Christ: The One and Only

#### I Corinthians 8:5, 6

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**Joshua 24:15** “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

**Paul/ Polytheism**—belief in or worship of more than one god/ sun, sea, war, wealth, wisdom, time, love.

Stronger Christians not to offend the weaker Christians by participating in practices, although harmless, that could damage a weaker Christian’s faith.

Right here in the midst of this letter, Paul acknowledges the foolishness of worshipping all these gods, and points out the fact that there is one God, and One Lord Jesus Christ.

#### I. We as Christians worship one God, the Father, and Him alone!

Vs 5 “For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords).....(Counterfeit & confusion).

**Identified in the past:** The Godhead is a single undivided divine being, yet made up of three distinct persons. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit; who are equal in nature, yet submissive (subordinate) in responsibility.

**God is not limited by:**

- Time, Space, or Boundary.  
Omnipresent (Present everywhere at the same time).
- Omniscient (All knowing), perfect perception; knowledge.
- Omnipotent (All powerful), unlimited in power and authority.

I need a God who is in control of everything, not just certain things.—Paul’s Mindset

#### How do we know God exists?

**Vs 6** “Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him.”

##### A) Creation, Conscience, Christ.

**Illustration:** When a mother carries a baby inside of her for nine months she can not see the baby, but she knows that the baby is there. The evidence was overwhelming!!

“The more I seek you, the more I find you.”

**Acts 17:27** “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;”

The evidence of the work of God is everywhere.

##### B) Residence & Relationship.

**II Corinthians 1:22** “Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

**Romans 8:14-16** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness that we are children of God...”

**I John 5:14** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

Our relationship to God should be our most cherished possession in life!!!!

Video: Hosanna

## **II. We as Christians believe in one Savior, Jesus Christ the Son of God.**

**Vs 6** “yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one **Lord** Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

Nothing more important than this truth.

**He is the only Son of God:** John 3:16 “only begotten.” Unique, one of a kind”

We live in a culture where people will try to downplay who Jesus is:

### **1. Redefine Him as just a prophet.**

Quote: “The vast majority of unbelievers respect Jesus as a prophet or teacher. They may intellectually accept that He actually lived in history, said He was God, and was crucified. Yet they are not saved.”

“Few deny His existence in History, they just do not accept Him as Lord.”

People will tell you they respect Jesus and what He did, how He lived, and may be even what He taught.

They will say that He was one of many great teachers.

### **2. Realign Jesus as a partner.**

Jesus was a vegetarian/ environmentalist/ celebrity—dress like them/ homosexual/

**3. Confine Him to one people.**

**4. Consign Him to the past.**

**What separates Christ from rest of the great leaders of the world?**

### **1. His Divinity.**

**Lord**—Supreme in authority, controller.

**A)** Jesus believed He was God.

**John 8:58** “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” Eternal

**B)** Others believed He was God.

**John 3:2** Nicodemus—“we know that you are teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

**Example of a miracle: Luke 5:12, 13** “And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and **implored** Him saying, ‘Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then He put out His hand and touched him saying, “**I am willing; be cleansed.**” Immediately the leprosy left him.”

Picture of a lost person!!!!

**Luke 8:22-25** Wind and wave obey Jesus.

**John 11:38-44** Lazarus from the dead.

**Luke 13:10-13** “Women bent over for 18 years.

**John 20:28** And Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God.” Peter

**C)** Scripture bears witness that Jesus is God!

**John 5:53** “these are they which testify of Me.”

**Colossians 3:15, 18** “He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** over all creation.18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who

is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

**Vs 6** “through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

**Illustration/ Evidence:** One the average day your heart beats 103, 689 times, you breath 23,040 times, inhaling 48 cubic feet of air, and will eat between 3-4 pounds of food and drink three quarts of fluid. You will also perspire about two pints of liquid through your skin, but maintain a steady temp of 98.6 under any weather conditions. You will speak 4,800 words, you over 700 muscles, and 7,000,000 brain cells.

**A) “Firstborn over creation.”**

Firstborn—Firstbegotten-- To cause to exist or occur; produce

Jesus Christ produced Creation! God thw Father--Planned, Christ--Executed, Holy Spirit-- Perfected.

**Colossians 3:16** “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

**B) “Firstborn from the dead.”**

Firstborn—Firstbegotten—To cause to exist or occur; produce

Jesus Christ produced eternal life.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

**Revelation 1:11** “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.” **18** “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

**2. His Humanity.**

God Incarnate—God put on flesh and came to earth and lived among humanity. John 1:14

He was fully God and man at the same time. “God man.” Dual nature

- A)** He was born of a virgin. He was born just like you were!!!
- B)** His enemies believed him to be just a man. John 10:33
- C)** Physically Jesus gave evidence that He was fully man as well as fully God.

\*Wearied—to feel fatigue. John 4:6

\*Hungry—John 4:2

\*Thirsty—John 19:28

All human traits.

**Hebrews 4:14** “was in all points tempted as we are, yet was without sin.”

**James 1:13** “God cannot be tempted of evil.” Jesus had to be human to be tempted.

Closing statement:

Question is: Who do you say He is?