

Care Group Homework
(For the week of October 11, 2009)
What We Believe About Jesus Christ

Getting to know one another:

1. We have entered the Major League Baseball post season. Are you more of a baseball fan or football or neither?

Getting into the Word:

2. Why is a belief in the deity of Christ important?

Belief in the deity of Christ sets Christians apart from all other faith systems. The deity of Christ is also of the greatest importance for our salvation. Only an infinite person could offer an infinite sacrifice sufficient to satisfy god's divine justice and to atone for the sins of all who believe.

3. What is the significance of Jesus both thinking he was God and teaching it? What other passages might show this other than those spoken of in the message?

Jesus' self awareness of his divinity is telling. If he did not think and teach that he was God then it would greatly diminish our arguments concerning his deity. Some other passages which affirm his deity include John 10:33, John 8:58, John 17:5 and Mark 2:4. There are many, many other texts which we could turn to in support of the deity of Christ.

4. How do the things Jesus did affirm his deity?

The miracles which Jesus performed generally affirm his deity, but a few especially do so. That he raised people from the dead and had control over nature are two of the most significant.

5. How could you use this message to converse with non-believers?

Non-believers? We're supposed to talk to non-believers? I haven't had a non-believer as a friend since 5 years after I became a believer. What does a non-believer look like? SHOULD I be talking to non-believers? Do non-believers wear Converse? Does that mean I shouldn't wear Converse?

Seriously, the deity of Christ sets us apart from all others. To engage a non-believer on this topic is to get them started along the path of grappling with belief which leads to salvation. To be able to articulate the deity of Christ to a non-believer is a starting point to leading them to accept Christ for who he is.

6. What arguments have you heard against the deity of Christ? How do you respond to those arguments?

7. What does the deity of Christ teach us about God?

It teaches us about the love of God. In Christ he fulfilled the promise of Genesis 3:15, actively providing for us what we could not provide for ourselves.

8. If Jesus is not God, how would your faith change?

There would be no compelling reason to hold to the Christian faith.

9. What are some practical implications of the deity of Christ?

Since Jesus is God, we are to do what he says! Since Jesus is God, we know God understands our human predicament. Since Jesus is God we know we have access to the Father. Since Jesus is God, we know our salvation is secure. The list here is quite long!