

Jesus is the Creator God

Generally speaking, most Christians agree that Jesus is God. However, non-Trinitarian Christians believe that at some point in ages past God the Father brought forth or begat a Son, and conferred complete Deity upon Him. Jesus' divinity was delegated to Him by God the Father, and thus Jesus is not God in the fullest sense as the Father is. Obviously, this presupposes that Jesus did not exist from all eternity, and that He owes His existence to God the Father.

But is divinity something that can be conferred on or delegated to another being? Does inspiration support the idea of varying degrees of Deity, of greater and lesser Gods?

To answer these questions we need to consider a more fundamental question: what is Divinity? What does the title of God really mean?

There are two main fundamental attributes of God that are revealed in the Bible that give us a clear understanding of who God is - what it means to be God. These two attributes are summed up in Isaiah 40:28:

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the **everlasting** God, the LORD, the **Creator** of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

The two primary attributes of God that distinguish Him from the various pagan idols and gods are His **creative power** and His **eternal existence**. In this study we will consider the first of these attributes, and we will see how God as Creator applies to Jesus as equally as it does to the Father.

The Bible portrays God as creative in three ways: Creator of everything, the Sustainer of all life, and His complete power over death. **Thus He is the Beginner of life, the Sustainer of Life, and the Restorer of life.**

Creator of Everything

When we open the Bible to the beginning, the very first thing God wants us to know about Himself is the fact that He is our Creator.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Bible writers understood that creating the world is a key attribute of God. This is the primary attribute that distinguishes the true God from all false gods. There is no higher proof of omnipotence than the work of creation, and God often appeals to that work to prove that He is the true God.

And so when the New Testament writers were seeking to establish the divinity of Christ, this is the first place they went to - God's creatorship.

John 1:1,3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

John 1:10 He was in the world, and **the world was made by him**, and the world knew him not.

Colossians 1:16 **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him**:

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.

Creation of the world being a key attribute of God, and Jesus clearly identified as the creator of the world shows us that Christ is equal to the Father in creative power. He was the key player in creation. Not merely the instrument or the channel of God's creative power, but Jesus was the active agent, the co-efficient cause, in the creation of the universe.

In fact the Bible makes it clear that all three persons of the Godhead were active in creation.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **thou hast created all things**, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by **Jesus Christ**:

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.

The plural for God, *elohiym*, is used for every day of creation, thus the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were cooperative in creation. We also find in the Biblical account of creation that the plural pronouns "us" and "our" are used, once again confirming the plurality of the Godhead in the act of creation. However, on the authority of John and Paul in the New Testament it is plain that Christ was the leader in these acts of creation.

It is asserted by some non-Trinitarians that Jesus received the ability to create from God the Father. In other words, omnipotence was delegated to Jesus. But if God can delegate omnipotence, then He can make any creature omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and infinitely wise and good; that is, He can make as many Gods as He should choose to make. There can be no delegated God. The work of creation implies divinity; or it is impossible to prove that there is a God. If the universe was created by Christ then that proves He is divine in and of Himself.

The Sustainer of All Life

If Jesus is our Creator, then He is also our Sustainer. That is, if He has the power to create life, He must also have the power to sustain life. What does the Bible have to say about the source of our life?

Colossians 1:17 And he [Christ] is before all things, and **by him all things consist**.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, **who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in

glory.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

“All created things live by the will and power of God. **They are recipients of the life of the Son of God.** However able and talented, however large their capacities, they are replenished with life from the **Source of all life. He is the spring, the fountain, of life.** Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, “I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again.”- E.G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, Pg. 1113

“**From Jesus is our life derived.** In him is life that is **original, unborrowed, underived life.** In him is the **fountain of life.** In us there is a streamlet from the fountain of life. Our life is something that we receive, something that the Giver takes back again to himself.” - E.G. White, *Review & Herald*, August 6, 1914

Christ is the original, unborrowed underived fountain of life, and we are streamlets from Christ. It is very clear from inspiration that Christ is our Sustainer.

If Christ is the source and sustainer of all life, where did Christ's life come from? Could Christ's life have been generated at some point? Is Christ's own life derived from the Father?

The quote we just read clearly says that Christ's life is **original, unborrowed, and underived.** What does that really mean?

According to Inspiration, Jesus Christ has Divine life, which is described as follows:

Original: When something is "original" we say it is not a copy. It does not come from something else. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "original" as "fountain, source, cause". The life of Christ cannot be original if it came from the Father. The Father's life is original, because He has always existed and always will. But if the Father passed that life unto Christ then for Christ it is not original.

Unborrowed: Conveys the same idea as "original". Webster's 1828 dictionary defines it as, "Not borrowed; genuine; original; native; one's own." So that life that Christ possesses is His own. It does not come from the Father.

Underived: Again from Webster's dictionary this word means, "Not derived; not borrowed; not received from a foreign source."

Ellen White has used three words that all mean the same thing. She has placed a **triple emphasis** on this one concept. This means that it is very important. If she was trying to say that the life of Christ actually came from the Father, she did a very poor job of it. Surely it is evident that Ellen White meant what she said when describing Jesus' life as "original, unborrowed, underived" and that this rules out Jesus' life having been given to Him by the Father.

Power Over Death

If God is our Creator and Sustainer, then He must have power over death - He must also be the Restorer of life.

Revelation 1:18 (NLT) I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Keys in the Bible are the symbol of authority. Christ has authority over death because of the victory that He won over sin and death.

But this raises a question: how could Jesus, if He is God, die? If Jesus is truly 100% God, eternal and not subject to death, how could He die? Was it just a human body that died on Calvary? If so, was it sufficient to pay the ransom for our sins? Was Jesus' death made only as a man, a human sacrifice for sins?

“Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. **Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible.** Christ, the sinless One, will save every son and daughter of Adam who accepts the salvation proffered them, consenting to become the children of God. The Saviour has purchased the fallen race with His own blood. This is a **great mystery, a mystery that will not be fully, completely understood** in all its greatness until the translation of the redeemed shall take place. Then the power and greatness and efficacy of the gift of God to man will be understood. **But the enemy is determined that this gift shall be so mystified that it will become as nothingness.**” - E.G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, pg. 113

If it was impossible for Jesus' divine nature to die, that is irrefutable proof that Jesus is God, in the same way that the Father is God. Because if Jesus' divine life had been somehow generated by the Father, then it would be possible for Him to die. The Father could simply take back that life which He gave Christ in the beginning.

But the Bible is clear that the Father did not remove life from Jesus, but that Jesus laid it down of Himself. We are also clearly told that Jesus had the power to raise Himself from the dead.

John 10:17,18 (ESV) For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

The laying down of Jesus' life for the salvation of man was entirely voluntary. The Father did not compel Jesus to lay down His life, nor could Satan have touched His life had He not laid it down voluntarily.

“While as a member of the human family He was mortal, **as God He was the fountain of life for the world.** He could have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but **voluntarily He laid down His life**, that He might bring life and immortality to light.” - E.G. White, *Desire of Ages*, pg. 484

John 2:18-22 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.** Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt

thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the **temple of his body**. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

"When the voice of the angel was heard saying, 'Thy Father calls thee,' He who had said, 'I lay down my life, that I might take it again,' 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,' came forth from the grave **to life that was in Himself**. Deity did not die. Humanity died, but Christ now proclaims over the rent sepulchre of Joseph, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' **In His divinity Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death**. He declares that He had **life in Himself** to quicken whom He will."

"'I am the resurrection, and the life.' This language can be used only by the Deity. All created things live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of the Son of God. However able and talented, however large their capabilities, they are replenished with life from the Source of all life. **Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, 'I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again.'** All the human beings in our world take their life from Him. He is the spring, the fountain of life." - E.G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, pg. 1113

Jesus gave up His life voluntarily. Death had no power over Him. It could not keep Him in the grave. When the time came for Christ to come forth from the tomb, death could not hold Him.

But if only Jesus' humanity died, does that mean that His was only a human sacrifice?

Notice that before Ellen White said that Christ's human nature died, she said that the divine and human natures were blended in some mysterious way - meaning it has not been revealed to us just how this blending of the two natures was made.

"Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; **the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus**. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

When Christ died, it was more than just a human body that died.

"The spirit of Jesus slept in the tomb with His body, and did not wing its way to heaven, there to maintain a separate existence, and to look down upon the mourning disciples embalming the body from which it had taken flight. **All that comprised the life and intelligence of Jesus remained with His body in the sepulcher**; and when He came forth it was as a whole being; **He did not have to summon His spirit from heaven. He had power to lay down His life and to take it up again.**"
- E.G. White, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, pg. 1150

So everything that comprised the life and intelligence of Jesus slept in the tomb. He laid down His divine-human life. We need to remember that Jesus was not just a human body with a divine spirit planted into it, that could somehow be separated if the body was killed. The Divine and human were "mysteriously blended in one person". At any moment Jesus could have used His divine power to resist the inroads of death. God cannot be killed, but He can lay down His life. How this is possible will remain a mystery to us, for God is God and we are human.

At the same time, we need to realize that Christ really did take a massive risk by taking on humanity. Consider these statements:

"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. **But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation.** We have nothing to bear which He has not endured." - E.G. White, *Desire of Ages*, pg. 117

"Could Satan in the least particular have tempted Christ to sin, he would have bruised the Saviour's head. As it was, he could only touch His heel. Had the head of Christ been touched, the hope of the human race would have perished. **Divine wrath would have come upon Christ as it came upon Adam. Christ and the church would have been without hope.**" - E.G. White, *Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, pg. 256

How can Christ be eternal God and yet take a risk like that? The answer is: we don't know. It is not revealed.

What has been revealed is that Christ is co-eternal with the Father, and that Christ could have failed. Any speculation regarding what would have happened to Christ if He had failed, and what would have happened to the Godhead is purely hypothetical, since we have no inspired statements on that subject. All we know is that Satan would have won the great controversy and there would be no salvation for any of us. Anything beyond this is pure speculation and ventures into the realm of philosophy.

But another question is raised. Didn't the Father raise Jesus from the dead?

There are in fact many Bible verses saying the Father raised Jesus from the dead. But we just read from the Spirit of Prophecy and the words of Jesus that say He raised Himself from the dead. How do we square these seemingly contradictory ideas?

Once again God's inspired messenger clears up the matter:

"He who died for the sins of the world was to remain in the tomb for the allotted time. He was in that stony prison house as a **prisoner of divine justice**, and he was responsible to the Judge of the universe. He was bearing the sins of the world, and his **Father only could release him.**

"Christ had declared that he would be raised from the dead on the third day; and at the appointed time a mighty angel descended from heaven, parting the darkness from his track, and resting before the Saviour's tomb...The soldiers saw him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and heard him call, **Son of God, thy Father saith, Come forth.** They saw Jesus come from the grave as a mighty conqueror, and heard him proclaim, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' The angel guards bowed low in adoration before the Redeemer as he came forth in majesty and glory, and welcomed him with songs of praise." - E.G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, May 2, 1901

When the time was up, and Divine justice had been met, the Father could release Jesus from the tomb. The Father didn't have to give Jesus back His life so that He could be raised from the dead. Jesus came forth by His own power, but He had to wait for the Father to call Him. So in this sense the Father did raise

Him up: the Father called Him and Jesus came forth of His own accord.

If the Father had raised Jesus from the dead just like any other person that has been raised to life, how does that make Jesus conqueror over death? It really makes it of no effect. And it would make a lie of Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life." But if Jesus could actually raise Himself to life, that really does make Him conqueror over death.

Incidentally, we have seen the expression "the Fountain of Life" applied to Christ in a number of the statements that we have looked at. This expression comes from Psalm 36.

Psalm 36:7-9 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, **O God!** therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is **the fountain of life:** in thy light shall we see light.

Ellen White applies the same expression to God the Father:

"The ability and wisdom of any man is only derived from God. Connected with God, his life bound up with God, he will work the works of God. God has wisdom **underived**. He is the Infinite One; the human is finite, erring. He is the **Fountain of the light and life** and glory of the world." - E.G. White, *1888 Materials*, pg 919.1

The fact that she applied the same expressions to both Jesus and God the Father emphasizes their equal deity and co-eternity.

Conclusion

We have looked at the first key element of God: that He is Creator. And we've seen that the three aspects or dimensions of creatorship, the creator of all life, the sustainer of all life, and the restorer of life, apply to Jesus as equally as to God the Father.

The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy clearly say that Jesus is divine, eternal, and self-existent. We are told that His life was not derived from any other being. He has always existed. Therefore, we only have one option: to accept what the Word of God says, regardless of our inability as humans to fully understand the mystery of God.