



08-22-2006

#1

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 225
26 Reputation Points

How can Jesus be worshiped if only a "god"?

In the New World Translation, [John 1:1](#) reads "the Word was a god" instead of "the Word was God".

But if Jesus is only a little g god how is that he is worshiped in the gospel accounts numerous times?

Yaweh clearly told Moses that the Jews should not worship any other gods or their images. Then why do the gospel accounts tell of people worshipping Jesus? If He is a god and not God, then He cannot be worshiped.

If Jesus is only a god and the Messiah, the Holy One of Isreal, then He would not allowed Himself to be worshiped.

The man born blind that Jesus healed worshiped Jesus when he found out who Jesus was.

After Jesus' ressurection, all of the disciples worshiped Him on several occasions.

In every case, Jesus never once rebuked them for it. But in the Revelation of John, when John bows down at the feet of the messenger to whom he is speaking, he is immediately rebuked.

If Jesus is only a god but represents the will of the Yaweh, then why does He allow His disciples to transgress the Law of Moses and worship Him, another god other than Yaweh.

If Jesus is only a god, He is not the Messiah and we should look for another, because He allowed HIMself to be worshiped as another god.

This of course is not the case. Jesus is the manifestation of Yaweh in the form of a man and can therefore be worshiped as God. He is the exact representation of Yaweh in the flesh of man. Amen. He is not another god, angel, or other spiritual being; He is God Himself come down to earth to save mankind because He could not find another to work salvation.

Worship the Lord God for He is one manifested in three, Father in the Law and the Prophets, Son in the Gospels, and Holy Spirit in Acts and the epistles.

Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost, Bill 🙏😊🙏😊

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😊 🙏



08-22-2006

#2

corvus

Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Location: Australia
Gender: ♂
Posts: 1,663
31 Reputation Points



In the same way as the Jews were to be worshipped in prophecy (all from Brenton's English LXX the Hebrew reference is given also:

1 Sa 2:36 And it shall come to pass that he that survives in thy house, shall come to do obeisance (proskuneo; KJV "crouch to him" Heb shachah - prostrate, obeisance, worship) before him for a little piece of silver, saying, put me into one of thy priest's offices to eat bread.

1 Sa 20:41 And when the lad when in, then David arose from the argab, and fell upon his face, and did obeisance (proskuneo; KJV "bowed himself" Heb shachah) to him three times, and they kissed each other, and wept for each other, for a great while.

1 Sa 24:8 (24:9) And David rose up *and went* after him out of the cave: and David cried after Saul, saying, *My Lord, O king!* and Saul looked behind him, and David bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance (proskuneo; KJV "bowed" Heb shachah) to him.

1 Sa 25:23 And Abigaia saw David, and she hastened and alighted from her ^{***} and fell before David on her face, and did obeisance (proskuneo; KJV "and bowed herself" Heb shachah) to him, *bowing* to the ground.

See also 1 Sa 28:14; 2 Sa 1:2; 9:6, 8; 14:14, 22, and 33; 15:5; 16:4; 18:21, 28 and dozens of other verses where "proskuneo" (do obeisance or worship) is used or the Hebrew equivalent "shachah". In each case where applied to humans this word is rendered with a cognate of "do obeisance" or "bow down" whereas with God it is rendered "worship" consistently.

In every case when the word "worship" is applied to Jesus in the Gospels it is "proskuneo", think about that.



08-22-2006

#3

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 225
26 Reputation Points



Every example you use is "obeisance" to men. This still does not explain how the disciples could pay "obeisance" to a god.

I will have to look it up, but I would assume that the same word, proskuneo, is used to denote worship of God in the greek, also. If this is so, then it does not matter that this word is used in every case applied to Jesus.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you**

sent Me. 😄 😊



08-22-2006

#4

corvus

Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Location: Australia
Gender: ♂
Posts: 1,663
31 Reputation Points

Quote:

Originally Posted by **olivetree** [▶](#)
Every example you use is "obeisance" to men. This still does not explain how the disciples could pay "obeisance" to a god.

Because in ancient times the Jews would call a judge "el" or "theos" without even vaguely implying that that one was a deity in either of the senses Trinitarians think. You have to admit, Jesus is a judge, the mightiest in all of existence.

Quote:

I will have to look it up, but I would assume that the same word, proskuneo, is used to denote worship of God in the greek, also. If this is so, then it does not matter that this word is used in every case applied to Jesus.

Peace and Joy, Bill

It is applied to God as is the Hebrew shachah. So the translation of the word is purely arbitrary - if you already believe Jesus is God then you will assume that it means "worship" and is therefore proof that he is God. If you are not burdened by such human doctrine you will not make any such assumption. The word PROSKUNEO simply means "toward <like> a dog", it was a word applied to humans and even the Trinitarian Roman and Eastern churches performed it to people like the Pope and the Byzantine emperor without the assumption that it means "worship as G/a god". The word SHACHAH simply means "to depress" and like PROSKUNEO was applied by the Jews as much to men as to God without taking the position that the recipient was God or a false god.

The use of these words both in the Greek and Hebrew OT and in the NT for humans is proof positive that they do not mean what Trinitarianism says they do.



08-22-2006

#5

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 225
26 Reputation Points



I looked it up. The same greek word is used to denote worship of God in [John 4:21 & 23](#), [1 Corinthians 14:25](#), [Revelation 7:11 & 16](#), and [Revelation 19:4](#). There were many others. It seems that in the greek there is only one word to denote worship of gods or God and denote paying respect to men. I would be interested to see the word usage in the aramaic. Maybe this language has different words for the two.

You have proved nothing but that the greek word proskuneo can be used to denote worship of God and to denote giving honor to men.

But JWs say that Jesus is a god. The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to worship, pay homage to, honor, or bow to another god different from

Yaweh. Yet according to JW doctrine Jesus is a god. Yet the apostles worshiped Him, another god?

No they worshiped Him as Yaweh the same God that appeared to Abraham and Moses.
Jesus is the expressed image of the living God, not some angel that God made human that is only a god.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😊 😊



08-22-2006

#6

CORVUS

Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Location: Australia
Gender: ♂
Posts: 1,663
31 Reputation Points

Quote:

Originally Posted by **olivetree** *I looked it up. The same greek word is used to denote worship of God in [John 4:21](#) & 23, [1 Corinthians 14:25](#), [Revelation 7:11](#) & 16, and [Revelation 19:4](#). There were many others. It seems that in the greek there is only one word to denote worship of gods or God and denote paying respect to men. I would be interested to see the word usage in the aramaic. Maybe this language has different words for the two.*

Actually there are several words all rendered "worship" when applied to God, LATREIA (service, servitude, hired labour, worship) is one.

Quote:

You have proved nothing but that the greek word proskuneo can be used to denote worship of God and to denote giving honor to men.

But JWs say that Jesus is a god. The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to worship, pay homage to, honor, or bow to another god different from Yaweh. Yet according to JW doctrine Jesus is a god. Yet the apostles worshiped Him, another god?

I also told you that "el" and "theos" also mean "judge" and similar. If you look the words up in a dictionary such as Strong's (a Trinitarian) you will see this is so. In my Langensheidt's Biblical Greek dictionary as well as "god" the word theos also means "a divine being", that is one that is not a God but is of divine origin, including angels. This is what Jesus is. The Bible has a whole class of "theoi" and "elohim" who are neither true God nor a false idol deity, this class includes the Judges of Israel and angels.

Quote:

No they worshiped Him as Yaweh the same God that appeared to Abraham and Moses.

"No man may see God and live" God, "no man has seen God at any time". If Jesus is God then God himself is a liar.

Quote:

Jesus is the expressed image of the living God, not some angel that God made human that is only a god.

Peace and Joy, Bill

No, the image is never the reality but merely a reflection of it. God cannot be his own reflection any more than what you see in a mirror is fully you. It is nothing more than the light bouncing off you and being reflected back from the polished surface. Jesus is the reflection, the image of God, a perfect copy if you will, but he is not the original reality. The Father is alone true God. The Son is a reflection of him and neither hypostase or mode of the Godhead.



08-22-2006

#7

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006

Posts: 225

26 Reputation Points



This would be an adequate argument if JW's said that Jesus was only a man, but you do not. Your Bible translation says that the Word (Jesus) is a god.

The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to bow down to, worship, or pay homage to any other god, only Yaweh.

The fact that this word is used to denote honoring men is irrelevant to the debate.

The facts are:

The Bible teaches not to worship other gods.

The JW translation of the Bible says Jesus is a god.

The apostles paid homage to Jesus, who JW's say is a god.

It is ok to pay homage to men in the bible.

It is not ok to pay homage to other gods in the bible.

If Jesus is a god, it is not ok to pay homage to Him even in the form of a man.

If Jesus is only a man, then it was ok for his apostles to pay homage to him.

If Jesus is the manifestation of Yaweh, then it is also ok.

Jesus is not only a man, he has a divine nature whether it is God or a god.

If He is only a god, it is not ok to worship Him.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you**

sent Me. 😊 😊



08-22-2006

#8

[pestmanpat1](#)

Member

Join Date: Aug 2006

Posts: 1,119

15 Reputation Points



hi olive tree.i feel that the evidence corvus has presented is overwhelming.i suggest you really consider it.

incidentally other translations have rendered john 1;1 "and the word was divine.and a god like sort was the logos,

Trinity



Encyclopædia Britannica Article

in Christian doctrine, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead.

Neither the word Trinity nor the explicit doctrine appears in the New Testament, nor did and his followers intend to contradict the Shema in the Old Testament: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#))

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The word "Trinity" comes from "Trinitas", a [Latin](#) abstract noun that most literally means "three-ness" (or "the property of occurring three at once"). Or, simply put, "three are one". The first recorded use of this Latin word was by [Tertullian](#) in about 200, to refer to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

As far back as [Babylonia](#), the worship of pagan gods grouped in threes, or triads, was common. That influence was also prevalent in [Egypt](#), [Greece](#), and [Rome](#) in the centuries before, during, and after Christ. After the death of the [apostles](#), many nontrinitarians contend that these pagan beliefs began to invade [Christianity](#). (First and second century Christian writings reflect a certain belief that Jesus was one with God the Father, but anti-Trinitarians contend it was at this point that the nature of the oneness evolved from pervasive coexistence to identity.)

Some find a direct link between the doctrine of the Trinity, and the Egyptian theologians of Alexandria, for example. They suggest that Alexandrian theology, with its strong emphasis on the deity of Christ, was an intermediary between the Egyptian religious heritage and Christianity.

500 billion years and still burning"think about that"



08-22-2006

#9

[tkkclark](#)

Member

Join Date: Apr 2006

Posts: 275

18 Reputation Points



Corvus is right -- there is more than one Greek word that translates to worship. Although I'm not entirely sure his assertion that *latreuo* is solely applied to Yahweh/God is correct. I seem to recall that it's applied to Jesus as the Lamb in Revelation, but I could be wrong.

In any event...We were discussing *proskuneo* as applied to Jesus, comparing/contrasting how *proskuneo* is given to others in a recent thread:

<http://www.christiandiscussionforums...ad.php?t=19323>

I became more than a little irritated, I must admit, because katierussell seemed to want to discuss *proskuneo* in terms of her theology rather than discussing *proskuneo* as definitively (demonstrably) worship or as definitively (demonstrably) obeisance. I may be mistaken, but the theology of worship appears to be the subject of this thread so her comments in that regard perhaps apply here.

In any event, corvus, KR didn't want to discuss the difference between obeisance and worship as demonstrated in cultic devotional patterns. Nor do I think she ever really delineated the difference between obeisance and worship (outside the parameters of her theology, that is). Could you explain this to me? Understanding the WTS theology in regards to *proskuneo* would be a great deal easier if I could understand why the WTS doesn't consider early cultic devotional patterns (prayer, confessing/invoking Jesus, the Lord's Supper, baptism in Jesus name, Jesus hymns and prophecy) as worship. If these devotional patterns reflect the lesser obeisance rather than worship, how so? And why? I.e. what makes you believe, based on the practices, that they are not worship? That these devotional practices are in any way less than devotion given to God?

Thanks!



08-22-2006

#10


tkkclark

Member

Join Date: Apr 2006
Posts: 275
18 Reputation Points



Quote:

Originally Posted by **pestmanpat1** 
Trinity
Encyclopædia Britannica Article...

Just a word of warning: I don't think we're supposed to discuss the trinity here. I've seen posters warned about it before, anyway, and they were invariably pointed to another board on this forum specifically geared toward discussing the trinity.

And...Not to put too fine a point on it, but this thread isn't about the trinity. It's about worship in relation to Jesus as God (per [John 1:1](#) et. al.) in the NT.



08-22-2006

#11

imJR

CARM Super Member

Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 4,473
99 Reputation Points



Very true. Pat, I understand that you like to avoid things and change subjects - You've shown that clearly on the other thread by running away totally from Robert's ONE QUESTION. But, tkkclark is correct, and you really should try to stay on the subject here.

JR

Last edited by imJR : 08-22-2006 at 09:32 AM.



08-22-2006

#12

secondbirth

CARM Super Member



Join Date: Jul 2006
 Location: NEW JERSEY
 Posts: 1,757
 41 Reputation Points



hey olive tree, i really suggest you go to library and look up this new encyclopedia britannica.. WHY? because they are deceiving you.... it really read like this: THUS, THE NEW TEASTAMENT ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.. HEY JW LOOK IT UP FOR YOUR SELVES IN THE LIBRARY...THE WATCHTOWER HAS YOU BLINDED



08-23-2006

#13

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
 Posts: 225
 26 Reputation Points



I am confused by your reply.

It seems you think I am a JW. I am not.

The purpose of this thread is invalidate the JW claim that Jesus is a little g god.

It is indirectly about the trinity.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😞 🙄



08-23-2006

#14

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
 Posts: 225
 26 Reputation Points



His arguement is irrevelevant.

It would be relevent if Jesus were only a man and His apostles believed the same. This is not the case. They did believe that He is divine. But according to the JW bible translation, they believed He is a god and not the God.

If this is true, there is a problem. The Bible clearly teaches us not to bow to, worship, pay homage to or honor any other gods.

By the way this is not the only Scripture JW's have altered to fit their doctrine.

Any scripture that points to Jesus being God Yaweh they have said "oh this was not translated correctly, so let's change it."

(quotes are comparison of New King James Version and New World Translation)

In [John 1](#), they changed "the Word was God" to " the Word was a god".

In Phillipians 2:6, they changed "did not consider it robbery to be equal with God" to "gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal to God". I will admit that other modern translations have also rendered it so. In Jewish culture, to call someone your father meant you considered yourself equal to that person. When Jesus called God His Father, He was considering Himself equal with God. In my opinion, the KJV and NKJV have translated with the whole of the gospel account in mind.

In [Colossians 2:9](#), they changed "for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" to "the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily". This seems to be an insignificant change, but it is not. It changes the impact of the statement. They have translated theotes the same as theiotes is translated in [Romans 1:20](#). theotes means Godhead in the context of this sentence. Theiotes from [Rom. 1](#) means divine attributes or quality. Nice try but no cigar.

I could go on with less convincing verses, but modern scholarship has changed them to.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 🙏 😊

Last edited by olivetree : 08-23-2006 at 03:08 AM.



08-23-2006

#15

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
 Posts: 225
 26 Reputation Points



You wrote.

"No man may see God and live" God, "no man has seen God at any time". If Jesus is God then God himself is a liar."

But this is not the whole story.

[John 6:46 \(KJV\)](#) "Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is he which is of God, he hath seen the Father."

[John 8:38 \(KJV\)](#) " I speak that which I have see with my Father."

In these two accounts, Jesus says He has seen the Father. If Jesus says no man has seen the Father, but He has seen the Father, would one reason that Jesus is not a typical man.

On any account this is irrelevant to the subject at hand.

The JW bible says that Jesus is a god.

The Old Testament tells us not to worship, bow to, honor, pay homage to, etc. any god but Yaweh.

The apostles and many disciples worshiped, bowed to, honored, and payed

homage to Jesus, who the JW bible says is a god.

Therefore, according to the JW bible the apostles are idol worshipers and Jesus is a false god. Because there is no true God but Yaweh.

Your arguement that the same word is used to denote honoring men is irrelevant if Jesus is a god.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😊 😊



08-23-2006

#16

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 225
26 Reputation Points



Actually this thread is indirectly about the trinity, but I put it hear because it is specifcly a JW arguement against Jesus being the same as God.

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😊 😊



08-23-2006

#17

olivetree

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 225
26 Reputation Points



Although I have shown in another reply that this arguement is irrelevant to my point in another reply, I will reply anyway.

It seems funny to me that if it was ok to the apostles to proskuneo, men why did Peter rebuke Cornelius for doing the same to him?

And why would the apostles not bow to the High Priest?

Why then would the first century christians not bow to ceasar?

If they did not think it was ok to bow to men, why did they bow to Jesus?

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😊 😊



08-23-2006

#18



[pestmanpat1](#)

Member

Join Date: Aug 2006
 Posts: 1,119
 15 Reputation Points



olive tree has answered for me below.but thanks for the tip i will take it on board.

500 billion years and still burning"think about that"



08-23-2006

#19

[olivetree](#)

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
 Posts: 225
 26 Reputation Points



Howdy,

I am not sure if I am qualified to answer your question.
 Not knowing much about JW theology, although I am learning more.

This thread is kind of a test run. A couple of JWs have been visiting my house attempting to convert me to their beliefs. Every other arguement or proof text I come up with the have an answer for. Although they seem to be convinced that their view is valid, I am not convinced. They change the meaning and words of Scripture passages to agree with their theology. If they think their changes are valid it is hard to change their mind.

But to answer your question form my limited knowledge about JWS.
 I would say that they would see these "cultic devotional patterns" to be of the lesser type, not the same as devotion to God.

God be with you in your studies.

Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😞 😊



08-23-2006

#20

[olivetree](#)

Junior Member



Join Date: Jan 2006
 Posts: 225
 26 Reputation Points



Just out of curiosity.

What does "500 billion years and still burning "thank about that"" mean?

Peace and Joy, Bill

John 17:20,21 "that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, **that the world may believe that you sent Me.** 😞 😊










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