

“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?” (Jn 14:9)

✠ Lecture IV: Our Lord Jesus Christ & The Father ✠

I) Our Lord Jesus Christ The Logic and Wisdom of The Father:

The Greek word ‘**Logos**’ is derived from the verb ‘**Lego**’, which means ‘**speak – say**’, from which also the English word ‘**Logic**’ derives. Logic doesn’t simply mean pronunciation but it means ‘**Reasonable Pronunciation**’. Therefore, the word ‘**Logos**’ refers to God’s Pronounced Logic or Reason. Since the Lord Jesus Christ is God’s Logic (Reason), then He is not created, for how could God create logic (reason) for Himself? With what Logic (Reason) would He do that? Is it conceivable that there was a time when God was illogical or unreasonable? Hence, the Lord Jesus Christ is from the same substance of the Father existing in Him before the time. Therefore, St. John said, “**In the beginning** was the Word (**Logos**), and the Word (**Logos**) was with God, and the Word (**Logos**) was God” (Jn 1:1). He also said, “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word (**Logos**), and the Holy Spirit; and **these three are one**” (1Jn 5:7).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Logos, is the Second Hypostasis (Person) of the Holy Trinity. He is the Hypostasis of Reason and Wisdom. St. Paul said about Him, “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1Cor 1:24), “In whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge” (Col 2:3).

II) Our Lord Jesus Christ The Son of God The Father:

St. John said, “The Word (**Logos**) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14). There are two different types of son-ship to God, the **first** is the Son-ship of our Lord Jesus Christ and the **second** is the son-ship of humans (creatures):

a) The son-ship of humans:

- God said, “I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me.” (Isa 1:2)
- Isaiah the Prophet said, “You, O Lord are our Father.” (Isa 63:16)
- God said, “Israel is My son, My firstborn” (Ex 4:22) and “My son, give Me your heart.” (Prov 23:26)
- We pray to God saying, “Our Father in heaven ...” (Mt 6:9)

✠ This son-ship is due to:

1. **Creation:** “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all are the work of Your hand” (Isa 64:8). God said to Job, “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God (Heavenly creatures) shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7).
2. **Faith:** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (Jn 1:12).
3. **Love:** “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1Jn 3:1).
4. **Adoption / Salvation:** “We ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body” (Rom 8:23). St. John said, “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not been revealed what we shall be” (1Jn 3:2).

Even though we are called children of God, this is an honor that **we do not deserve**. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, “When you have done all those things which you are commended, say, ‘we are unprofitable servants’” (Lk 17:10). On the other hand, St. Paul said about our Lord Jesus Christ that He, “being in the form of God, **did not consider it robbery to be equal with God**, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:6-7). The difference is clear then between the Son-ship of the Divine Logos who is equal with God and the son-ship of His creatures.

b) The Son-ship of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1. The Testimony of the Father Himself:

It was revealed during our Lord Jesus Christ's Baptism, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (**Mt 3:17; Lk 3:22**) and during His Transfiguration, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (**Mk 9:7**). Moreover, the Father said to the Son, in the Holy Book of Psalms, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You" (**Ps 2:7**). St. Paul marveled at this declaration and said about our Lord Jesus Christ, "For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are My Son, Today I have begotten You?" (**Heb 1:5**).

✦ Obviously, this Son-ship is different from our son-ship to God due to the revelations and glory that accompanied the Father's testimony. If this were an ordinary son-ship, what is the need for all the miracles that took place during the Baptism and Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, and why would St. Paul appeal to (**Ps 2:7**) in order to prove that the Lord Jesus Christ is above the angels, if His Son-ship was like ours?

2. The Son-ship of our Lord Jesus Christ is the goal of writing the Holy Gospels:

St. Mark starts his Holy Gospel by saying, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (**Mk 1:1**). St. John said, "Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (**Jn 20:30-31**).

✦ This is definitely not a regular son-ship like ours for many signs and miracles support it, also accepting and believing in it gives people life.

3. Believing in this Son-ship needed explanation & evangelization:

This is quite obvious from the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch who needed St. Philip's explanation of Holy Scripture to reach his conclusion: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (**Acts 8:37**). If this were a creature's son-ship what was the need for the explanation and evangelization?

4. This Son-ship confused Satan:

Satan was very suspicious and asked our Lord twice during the temptation saying, "If You were the Son of God..." (**Mt 4:3**). He may have also spoken through the Jews during the Crucifixion saying, "If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross" (**Mt 27:40**).

✦ With every question there is a miracle involved, either to transform the stones into bread, or to jump from the pinnacle of the temple, or to come down from the cross. If the Son-ship in question were like ours why then did Satan ask for miracles to prove it?

5. Many miracles declare it:

This was obvious after our Lord Jesus Christ's death, "So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (**Mt 27:54**). Also, our Lord asked the man who was born blind, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" (**Jn 9:35**) and he replied "Lord I believe" and he worshiped Him. After our Lord Jesus Christ had walked on the water, "those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God'" (**Mt 14:33**). Likewise, Nathanael was astonished when our Lord Jesus Christ saw him under the fig tree without being physically present. He said, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God!" (**Jn 1:49**).

✦ This Son-ship was revealed through many miracles that led people to testify and worship our Lord. Surely, this is not a regular son-ship like ours.

6. The Jews understood the theological meaning of this Son-ship:

It was written, "Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God" (**Jn 5:18**). They even told Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You being a Man, make Yourself God" (**Jn 10:33**). They also said to Pilate, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God" (**Jn 19:7**).

✦ It is very clear that this Son-ship that deserved death and was considered blasphemy by the Jews is not the same as the one Isaiah the Prophet mentioned, "You, O Lord are our Father" (**Isa 63:16**).

→ **St. Athanasius the Apostolic marveled at the Arians' denial of the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ saying that even the Jews who crucified Him understood the meaning of His words.**

7. Our Lord Jesus Christ was called "THE" Son:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (**Jn 8:36**). St. John the Baptist said, "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life" (**Jn 3:35-36**). St. John said, "We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world" (**1Jn 4:14**). Also, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (**1Jn 5:12**).

✠ Clearly, this Son-ship which is referred to by just "**the**" is different from any other son-ship. A Son-ship that gives those who believe in it everlasting life. St. Paul said, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent **His Son**, born of a woman" (**Gal 4:4**), and "Great is the mystery of godliness: **God** was manifest in the flesh" (**1Tim 3:16**). The Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ is pretty obvious here.

8. Our Lord Jesus Christ was called "The Only-Begotten" Son:

St. John said, "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (**Jn 1:18**), "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (**Jn 3:16**), "He who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (**Jn 3:18**), "We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (**Jn 1:14**), "God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (**1Jn 4:9**).

✠ This title distinguishes our Lord Jesus Christ from all others sons of God who were called as such through creation, faith, love and adoption. Also, note the relation between Him and salvation, glory, and life. St. Paul said that God has spoken to us "by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the worlds; who being the **brightness of His glory and the express image of His person**" (**Heb 1:3**). Indeed, the only begotten Son has declared the Father to us.

III) Our Lord Jesus Christ's Declarations Concerning His Divinity (relation with the Father):

- "I and My Father are one." (**Jn 10:30**) "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (**Jn 14:9**)
- "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works (miracles) themselves." (**Jn 14:11**) "All things that the Father has are Mine." (**Jn 16:15**)
- "You, Father, are in Me, and I in You." (**Jn 17:21**)
- "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He wills." (**Jn 5:21**) "All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father." (**Jn 5:23**)

✠ St. Paul said about our Lord Jesus Christ, "in Him dwells **the fullness of the Godhead bodily**" (**Col 2:9**). This dwelling is a Hypostatic (Personal) one, like the dwelling of the light in the sun, the dwelling of the heat in the fire, or the dwelling of the reason in the mind.

✠ Therefore, "We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, begotten of The Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of Virgin Mary, and became man, and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, ascended into the heavens; He sits at the right hand of His Father, and He is coming again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end." (**The Creed**).

* This lecture is adapted from, *'The Divinity of Christ'* by H.H. Pope Shenouda III.