

## **UPDATE FOR SESSION 6 THE INCARNATION**

This update provides a better explanation for the incarnation.

### **What Christians mean when we say that Jesus is God?**

This is how we understand the divinity of Jesus.

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1, NIV)
- The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being (Hebrew 1:3, NIV)
  - Both monotheistic statements about God: The God who speaks and the God of glory, which teach monotheism and at the same time that Jesus comes from God with the full divinity of God.
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. (Nicene Creed, 325 A.D.)

### **The Evidence that Jesus is God**

#### 1. God makes us in his image

- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27, NIV)
- And so when God becomes a man that is possible because he made us to carry his image in the first place. God calls on us to be holy as he is holy.
- But surprisingly, this very important teaching is not in the Qur'an. In fact the Qur'an denies that we are in anyway like God (Qur'an 112) and never encourages us to be holy as God is holy.
- Islam and Christianity have a very different understanding of God.

#### 2. God walks in the garden.

- Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8, NIV)
- In the garden God was there. He walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. God is said to have walked with man before the time of Jesus.
- But when the Qur'an describes the garden, Allah is not there. In all the descriptions of the Garden of Eden the Qur'an, Allah does not walk with Adam. The Qur'an has a very different

understanding of God at this point.

- Again we see that Islam and Christianity have completely different concepts of God. We worship different Gods. If I was to believe in the Islamic concept of God (no image, no walk in the garden) then it would be impossible for Jesus to be God. But Christians believe in a different concept of God (we are his image and he walked in the garden) and so the incarnation is possible. We worship different Gods.

### 3. The prophet Isaiah: God will walk among us.

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14, NIV)
- “Immanuel” means, God with us. This child is explained for us within the same prophecy.
- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6, NIV)
- God, through his prophet said that a day would come when he would again walk with us. This is why Christians believe that Jesus is God.

### 4. God can do all things, the impossible.

- The Qur’an says that Allah can do all things, Qur’an 5:40. Why is the incarnation impossible?

### 5. Jesus said he is God.

- God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14, NIV)
- Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, (John 8:56-59, NIV)
- Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:8-9, NIV)
- A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28, NIV)