

# The Only Begotten

**Introduction.** When you open the New Testament, you see how everything is connected with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

John uses a term of Jesus five times in his writings that no one else uses of Jesus: “only begotten” (John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9). This term means “one of a kind.” The word suggests the strong personal position to the Father and thus His unique ability to reveal the Father. He was able to do what no one else could do. Because of this relationship, we study the uniqueness and oneness of Jesus Christ, the most pivotal figure in world history (Hebrews 3:1-5).

## ***I. The Uniqueness Of Christ***

- A. His birth was unique.
  - 1. The Lord had no human father (Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:31-35; Romans 1:3-4).
  - 2. Although Jesus did have a miraculous, human birth from a virgin, He has existed eternally (John 6:38; 8:58; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:10).
  - 3. Look at the impact the birth of Jesus has had on the world. Although we cannot find permission in the Bible to commemorate Jesus’ birth, Christmas has still become the largest holiday in history.
- B. His claims were unique.
  - 1. The claims He made were truly spectacular — so much so that the Jewish officers said, “Never man spake like this man” (John 7:46):
    - a) He said He can forgive sins (Mark 2:5-12; John 8:1-11).
    - b) He said He and the Father were one (John 1:18; 14:9; 17:21).
    - c) He said He was the Savior of the world (John 3:14-15).
    - d) He said He was the bread of life (John 6:31-35).
    - e) He said He was the light of world (John 8:12).
    - f) He said He was the resurrection and the life (John 11:25).
    - g) He said He was the only approach to God (John 14:6).
    - h) He said He was the alpha and the omega (Revelation 1:8, 11, 17-18).
  - 2. And He could back these claims up because of His miracles (Luke 8:25; Acts 2:22; Hebrews 2:4).
- C. His character was unique.
  - 1. Jesus Christ was sinless (Luke 23:22; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5).
  - 2. Jesus Christ was humble and gentle (Matthew 11:28). Very few people if any develop the characteristics Jesus possessed. We need some other kind of intervention to progress in that way.
- D. His death was unique.
  - 1. His death was prophesied (Psalm 22:14-18; Acts 8:32-35; Isaiah 53:7-12).
  - 2. His death was the purpose of His life (John 10:17-18; Hebrews 2:14).
  - 3. His death was victorious because of the resurrection (Revelation 1:17-18).
  - 4. His death and resurrection form the foundation of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:13-19, 54-58).

## **II. The Oneness Of Christ**

### **A. The doctrine of one.**

1. Christ's doctrine is what will judge and save us (Matthew 17:5; John 12:48; cp. Proverbs 29:18; Galatians 1:8; Hebrews 12:25).
2. The doctrine of Christ is not open and we have to respect that. There are not multiple ones from which to choose (Matthew 15:13).

### **B. The loneliness of one.**

1. Christ was a lonely figure (Isaiah 53:3), and His followers felt the loneliness too (Mark 10:23-31).
2. When we feel alone, like everyone has left us, we can always take solace in John 16:32. Talking to others about Christ reveals the loneliness and discouragement of one.
3. You should be willing to stand alone and not compromise. When you do, you're going to feel like the only one who will, but God still has people who are willing to stand (1 Kings 19:18).

### **C. The suffering of one.**

1. The sufferings of Christ are well known, for many passages in the Bible explore the sufferings of Christ (Isaiah 50:6; 53:5; Mark 15:34; Luke 24:25-26; Hebrews 2:10; 13:12; 1 Peter 3:18).
2. As followers of Christ, we walk the same path. Peter encourages his readers to be patient in their suffering (1 Peter 1:6; 2:20; 3:13-17; 4:1, 12-13).
3. Although Christians are bound for suffering (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12), remember that we are bound for glory. This is a constant theme in the Bible (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). We are a people who live for the future.

### **D. The power of one.**

1. Jesus was able to draw all men because of the power of His life-giving message (John 12:32; Romans 1:1-4).
2. We can have that power to unleash on the world today. It is the authoritative, saving power of His gospel (Matthew 28:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
3. Although it is difficult to fend off the world's conflicts by yourself, the power of God is all it takes to have the strength to face the world (1 John 5:4).

**Conclusion.** The only begotten's uniqueness and oneness make Him a character that you cannot afford to neglect (Acts 4:12). As we learn of the uniqueness of Christ's birth, claims, character, and death, it builds our faith in Him.

As our faith is built up by knowledge, we will develop the mind of Christ within us, and by doing so we can identify with the doctrine, loneliness, suffering, and power of Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).