

JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE ONE / *Mark 13:32*

During his earthly life, Jesus subordinated himself to the will of his Father. He perfectly obeyed what his Father willed (see John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 7:28; 8:29). The cult called Jehovah's Witnesses have used these verses to attack Jesus' divinity. Others have used similar arguments to undermine faith in Jesus.

Incorrect Conclusions

Jesus is a creature. Those who believe this use Acts 2:36, "So let it be clearly known by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah!" and Colossians 1:15, "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation."

Jesus is not God. Those who believe this use John 17:3, "And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."

Jesus is inferior to the Father. Those who believe this use John 14:28 where Jesus said, "Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really love me, you will be very happy for me, because now I can go to the Father, who is greater than I am."

Jesus didn't have divine knowledge, so couldn't be divine. Those who believe this use Mark 13:32 where Jesus said, "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

Jesus and the Bible affirm the Trinity, and Jesus' essential oneness, equality, and interchangeability with God, the Father. See Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 17:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

The Complete Truth

BUT in context, these verses apply to Jesus' office and function, not his origin. In Colossians, "supreme" means first in rank.

BUT in context, Jesus' prayer was contrasting the Father with false gods and spiritual rivals—not with himself, the Son.

BUT in context, in his earthly ministry, Jesus took upon himself a functional subordination of his will and divine powers. During the incarnation, he was dependent upon God for his divine attributes.

BUT in context, Jesus voluntarily took on limitations to accommodate his humanity. These are not limitations of his essential divinity, but only of his physical humanity.