

INTRODUCE

Well, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Hebrews chapter 1.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Hebrews 1,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You’ll find Hebrews 1 on page **979**.

INTRODUCTION

Now, you may be thinking...Hebrews...I thought we were doing Christmas now! And yes, that’s where we’ll spend most of our time today.

- But as you’re turning there,
- I’ll read you a very familiar
- Christmas passage from Matthew chapter 1:

SLIDE MATTHEW 1:22-23

[22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

[23] “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).

GOD WITH US

So, we’re starting three sermons this Advent season,

- and these three sermons are going to be about
- GOD...WITH...US...

But with each one of those words, we're going to be digging into three core theologies of Jesus Christ.

- These are three of the biggies, y'all!
- And we're going to go a bit out of order.

For today, we'll tackle

- GOD, and we'll look at the doctrine of
 - **SLIDE CHRIST'S DIVINITY**
- Next week, will be US,
 - we'll look at the doctrine of CHRIST'S HUMANITY.
- And WITH, is the doctrine of CHRIST'S INCARNATION
 - and that'll be on Christmas Eve.

But, that's out of order...so, this series is really Immanuel...GOD US WITH.

EXPLAIN: REASON

And the reason I've chosen these three doctrines this Christmas...

- is that while many of you know ABOUT these doctrines...
 - you may not know HOW IMPORTANT they are...
 - or WHY they're so important.
- AND we also have a number of newer Christians in our midst,
 - and y'all might not even know about them!

You see, our vision at Fathom is we want you to GO DEEPER with God!

- Because we don't SIMPLY want you to believe in Jesus,
- we ACTUALLY want you to submit all of your life to him,
- and one of the best ways to do that is to get to know him better.

So, let's go. Hebrews 1:

HEBREWS 1:1a

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways

Two things came to mind here:

- “A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.”
 - And,
- “A long long time ago...I can still remember...how that music...”
 - NO TIME!

HEBREWS 1:1

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

EXPLAIN: GOD SPOKE

Now, think about all the ways that God spoke in the Old Testament...

- God revealed himself in visions and dreams.
- He delivered messages through angels.
- He spoke in audible voices.
- He wrote on walls.
- He appeared in burning bushes.
- He inspired worship songs: the Psalms.
- He put messages in the mouths of donkeys.
- He even inspired a book of erotic poetry: the Song of Solomon.

That’s his point: God spoke in many times and in many ways.

Verse 2:

HEBREWS 1:2a

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

EXPLAIN: BY SON

Now, if you're reading in Greek,

- cause I'm guessing you all brought
- your Greek New Testaments...

But in Greek, it says literally, **he has spoken to us IN SON.**

Now, that don't translate into English good, now, do it?

But that is exactly what he's saying.

In the Old Testament...

- **The prophets had GIVEN the word of God,**
- **but Jesus IS the Word of God.**

We see this in John chapter 1.

SLIDE JOHN 1:1a

[1] In the beginning was the Word,

EXPLAIN

- **So, God didn't just speak words THROUGH his son.**
- **Jesus IS the Word.**

Jesus is, himself, the Word of God.

He is the embodiment of the message of the Father.

EXPLAIN: WHICH JESUS?

Now, here's where we get to why I chose Hebrews 1 as a Christmas text.

- Because our interpretation of who this Son is,
- will drastically affect how we see God.

And AW Tozer said this:

SLIDE *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." ~ A.W. Tozer*

So, when you think about God...

- when you think about Jesus,
- what comes to your mind?

Because you can't rightly follow God...

if you don't rightly think about God.

BLANK SLIDE

ILLUSTRATION: DIFFERENT JESUS'

Here are just a few ways people think about Jesus...

THE FORCE

Some think about him like the force from Star Wars.

So, we're like,

- *"yeah, Jesus is like that now.*
- *He's just sort of this force ghost out there...*

- *and he's sort of in charge of stuff...*
- *but he can't really change things...*
- *he's the light side and there's a dark side...*
 - *and we'll just see how it plays out...*
 - *and who wins in the end...*
 - *cause that pesky Emperor just keeps coming back!*
- *But a force ghost can't really help you...*
 - *like, he might show up and give you advice or whatever...*
- *but he isn't really practical."*

So, some people think of him like that.

REFEREE/COP JESUS

And some people think Jesus is like a referee or a cop.

Like Jesus is just waiting around the corner,

- with his lights off,
- and he's got his speed gun out...
- just waiting to catch you doing something wrong...
 - *it's a trap!*

Or he's just waiting for you to mess up...

- and then he's gonna blow the whistle and throw the flag...
- like your date on Friday night,
 - *"BLEEP...illegal use of the hands.*
 - *15-yard penalty towards hell."*

That's what you think Jesus is like.

BOYFRIEND JESUS

And some people believe in like, prom, boyfriend, Jesus. Ok?
Like, you love Jesus...and you have a lot of emotions for him...

- but you think of Jesus like this Swedish guy,
 - with blonde hair, right?
 - No split ends,
 - perfectly blowing in the wind.
 - Miss America sash,
 - bathrobe,
 - his feet don't even move when he walks...
 - he just kinda floats around.

And then once a week you wanna come...

- and slow dance with him,
- and sing songs,
- and feel all the feels about him...

BUT when you don't have these feelings about Jesus,

- then maybe something is wrong between you two...
- maybe he's mad at you...
 - or worse...
- maybe he's seeing someone else.

SIRI JESUS

And then some—and this might be the most popular one—
some believe in Siri Jesus...or for you non-Apple people...Alexa Jesus.

Right?

When you want something...

- you just gotta say.
 - “Hey Jesus?”

And Siri is brilliant...when it works correctly.

But let's be real...she don't always work!

- *“Siri, get me directions to the Chipotle.”*
 - “Working on it.”
 - “Still working.”
 - “I'm sorry, there seems to be a problem.”
 - Well, how do I get that goodness in me?!?
- *“Siri, how old is Liam Neeson?”*
 - “Here's what I found on the web about that...”
 - She should just say, “Google it yourself!”
- *“Siri, call my wife.”*
 - “This may be beyond my abilities at the moment.”
 - Aren't you a thousand-dollar phone?!?

But, sometimes that's how we think Jesus works.

- And if we just pray the right prayer,
- and say it the right way,
- then he's like Siri...
 - And he's gonna give us what we ask for.
- And when he doesn't work the way we want...it's like...
 - *“Jesus! What good are you?!?”*

TRANSITION

But none of those Jesuses are accurate.

So, let's look at what the writer of Hebrews says about Jesus.

Verse 2:

HEBREWS 1:2b

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things,

EXPLAIN

Now the writer is beginning to show us about **SLIDE CHRIST'S DIVINITY**

So, he first says that Jesus is **the heir**.

- The heir is the person who everything is coming to. Right?
- They're going to get it all one day.

ILLUSTRATION: McDONALDS

I've told you about my first job...I worked at McDonalds.

- I was 14-years-old,
 - which is right on the border of child-labor laws.

And there were only two places that would hire 14-year-olds.

- McDonalds and Taco Bell.
- And McDonalds was close enough for me to roller blade to...

Picture a 14-year-old Chris in a McDonald's uniform roller balding to work.

- remember this was in the 1900s,
- ok...so, no judgment.

But you see, the owner of the McDonald's had a daughter...

- and she was the same age as I was,
- and we actually went to school together.

And she got a summer job there as well.

And let me tell you...

- she wasn't doing the same job...
- that I had to do at the McDonalds.

I had to clean the bathrooms...

- and if there's anything worse than going into a McDonalds...
- it's going into a McDonald's bathroom.

I had to crawl...

- into the play place tubes...
- with a spray bottle and a rag...
- to wipe boogers off the walls.

I even had to clean debris out the ball pit,

- where I literally found a rolled-up...
- dirty diaper at the bottom of that thing.
 - It'll make you re-think your parenting, for sure.

But this girl... "the heir"... she was the self-designated McFlurry maker.

All she wanted to do was Ice Cream!

And she'd order me around:

- *"Chris, go clean that up!*
- *Chris, go wipe the tables.*
- *Chris, get in the play-place tubes."*

I'm not still bitter!

But I'm hustling for my \$5 hourly wage...
and you this whole McKingdom is all coming to her.

TRANSITION

That's what the text is saying,

- *"all the prophets...*
- *they were just \$5 wage employees...*
- *Servants."*

But Jesus was the one for whom this was all prepared for.

He's the heir!

- The prophets pointed to something...
- Jesus was the one they were pointing to.

Jesus was the point.

He's always been the point!

But the verse keeps going. Verse 2:

HEBREWS 1:2

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

POINT: CREATOR

Now let's be real...the heir thing doesn't necessarily point to his divinity.

- Maybe he's just a demi-God...
- like a baby God or something...

But then he says THE SON was a part of creation?

It's my first point about CHRIST'S DIVINITY

- Jesus is **SLIDE CREATOR**

Now, that's tricky! Right?

- Cause I thought Jesus was born on
- December 25th, Year 0...right?

But you're telling me he was at CREATION?

Well, let's work on this:

There are other places from the Bible to build this out.

Genesis 1:26 says this:

SLIDE GENESIS 1:26a

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

EXPLAIN: DIVINE COUNSEL

Did you notice the pronouns?

- Some theologians say that's not the trinity there,
 - Father, Son, and Spirit,
- but some sort of divine counsel or something.

But that's even weirder to me!

- Like angels or something?
- No, the Son was a part of CREATION.

John 1:1 says as much:

SLIDE JOHN 1:1

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

EXPLAIN: THEOS

So, John is calling Jesus “the Word”.

Now this is hugely important.

- The Greek for “Word” is *logos*.

And this Greek term was first used around 600 B.C.

- to designate the divine reason or plan
- which coordinates a changing universe.

So, Jesus is the divine reason coordinating the universe...the *logos*...

- but then the Greek for “God” in this text is *theos*.

Theos is almost always reserved in the Bible to speak of God the Father.

But now, in this text John says:

- in the beginning was the *logos*,
- and the *logos* was with *theos*,
- and the *logos* WAS *theos*.

And then verse 3...

SLIDE JOHN 1:3

[3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Again, big theology,

- but Jesus was in the beginning...
 - creating...
 - making all things...
- and he was WITH God,
 - so, he's distinct from the Father...
- and yet, he WAS God...

So, Jesus Christ is divine...

- sharing the same divine essence
- as the Father and the Spirit.

TRANSITION

Christ is DIVINE because Christ is SLIDE CREATOR

Yes, Jesus was born 2000 years ago...

- but THE SON is pre-existent.
- He's the DIVINE CREATOR.

Ok, back to Hebrews. Look at verse 3:

HEBREWS 1:3

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

EXPLAIN: SIGNET RING

Ok, gosh, a few things in this verse.

First, it says that Jesus **is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.**

Again, this points to Christ's divinity.

But specifically, he is pulling up the idea of a signet ring.

In those days when they wanted to sign something

- they'd heat up wax
- and they would take their signet ring
 - which would have their mark or crest or whatever,
- and they'd push it down on that malleable wax.
- And it would show the exact imprint of that ring,
- which functioned like a signature.

He's saying that Jesus is the exact imprint of the Father.

- Everything that God is, Jesus is.
- When you see Jesus, you see God.

He is radiance.

- You know the God...
 - who you couldn't even look at,
 - lest you die, in the Old Testament?
- Well, now you can see him...it's Jesus!

Again, we have more biblical evidence of this. John 10:30

SLIDE JOHN 10:30

[30] I and the Father are one."

SLIDE JOHN 14:9b

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

SLIDE COLOSSIANS 1:15

[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

POINT: SUSTAINER

Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature.

But then Hebrews says he **upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

And it's my second point about the divinity of Christ.

- He's CREATOR and he's **SLIDE SUSTAINER**

He is literally holding all things together by the word of his power.

I mean, think about that for just a minute.

- Jesus' word is what's keeping
 - all the atoms of the universe together.
- If it weren't for the word of his power,
 - everything would fall apart.

Can you imagine this power? To sustain all things!?!

MIRACLES

I mean, just think about the power that Jesus displayed just in his life.

- He takes some poor kid's sack lunch,
 - and multiplies it into enough food
 - to feed thousands of people.

- He is at a wedding and they run out of wine,
 - so, he takes water for hand washing
 - and turns it into wine...
 - and not just wine...
 - but the good stuff!
- He knows what's going on in people's heads.
 - He's like, *"Why would you think that?"*
 - *"Think what?"*
 - *"You know what you were thinking!"*
- He can cast out demons without a fight, right?
 - Like we think of exorcisms,
 - and they're like battles...
 - with people crawling on the ceiling
 - and foaming at the mouth.
 - Jesus, doesn't even break a sweat.
 - In fact, demons beg him not to be too harsh with them.
- He's commanding weather patterns,
 - and his disciples are like,
 - *"What sort of man is this,*
 - *that even winds and sea obey him?"*

What sort of man is this?

- He is the DIVINE,
 - CREATOR,
 - and SUSTAINER of all things!

TRANSITION

But there's one more aspect of Christ's divinity in Hebrews 1 that I want to point out.

Look at the rest of verse 3:

HEBREWS 1:3

[13] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

POINT: SAVIOR

Now here comes the really amazing thing...

- Not only was Jesus the CREATOR...
- And not only is Jesus the SUSTAINER of all things...
- But he also had a fundamentally unique ministry than all others.

You see:

- the prophets GAVE instructions
 - about what we must DO to be reconciled to God.
- Jesus, on the other hand, DID the work on our behalf.

He did for us, what we could not do for ourselves,

- namely, making purification for sins.

And then it says that **he sat down**.

Listen...

- You only sit down when you are completely done with a task.
- You only sit down when there's nothing left to do.

He had made purification for sins.

It was finished, so he sat down.

Jesus is DIVINE by being

- **SLIDE SAVIOR**

He's our savior!

- Yes, he is CREATOR.
- Yes, he is SUSTAINING all things.
- But he is also SAVIOR!
 - Lord AND Savior.
 - Prophet AND Priest.
 - Lion AND Lamb.

Yes, he is POWERFUL.

But, he is also PERSONAL.

- We have a Christ, who is unlimited in his power.
- AND he is also our Savior...
 - he is tender and loves us intimately!

CONCLUSION

So, **SLIDE W/PADS CHRIST'S DIVINITY**

This is a massively important doctrine,

- showing that Jesus is CREATOR,
- SUSTAINER,
- and SAVIOR.

But why is this important? Well, I have two applications.

APPLICATION: SUBMIT

The first one is this: **SLIDE SUBMIT**

Some of you need to SUBMIT to the divine Christ.

I've been in pastoral ministry since 2003, so, almost 20 years at this thing.

- And I have seen, so very often,
 - that there are people in churches all over the place,
- who really, really want to follow Jesus as Savior...
- but who have no intention at all in submitting to him as Lord.

And it doesn't matter if you're brand new at this whole Jesus thing, or if you've been at this thing for 10, 20, 30 years...

- if you feel that Jesus can be your Savior...
 - but you have no submission to him being...
 - the Almighty Lord of your life...
- then you don't understand his divinity!

Listen...

- JESUS IS GOD!
- JESUS IS DIVINE!
- JESUS IS LORD!

And if you do not SUBMIT to him, HE IS NOT YOUR LORD!

- Now, I am NOT saying that we are perfect in our obedience.
 - I mean, goodness, of all people,
 - I have personally put on display
 - that we all have a lot of work to do
 - as we more fully submit to him.

- God has used many times in my life,
 - in rather forceful ways,
- to get me on my knees before him.

But my question is:

- Do you have ANY desire to come under his Lordship?
- Is there ANY desire at all to submit to Christ...
- even if it's in an infancy stage?

He is DIVINE!

- And if there is no desire at all to SUBMIT to him,
- I will gently push and say, *“you’re probably not a Christian.”*

Some need to grow in your holy awe and fear...

- of the power,
- of Jesus, the Christ!

He’s the king.

He’s the Lord.

He’s creator.

He’s sustainer.

And you need to SUBMIT all of you...to him.

APPLICATION: LOVE

Others, though, have the opposite issue.

You have no issue at all with seeing Jesus as this powerful.

- In fact, you’re rather fearful when it comes to God...
- because you’ve pictured him just waiting to pounce on you
 - every time you step out of line.

And I just want to offer to you...

- that, yes, Jesus calls for us to SUBMIT...
- but for what purpose?
 - We already said it. To make purification for sins.
- He wants to be savior!
- He is powerful AND he is personal.

And so, my word of application for you is **SLIDE LOVE**

- You need to be saved by him and love him.

John 3:16 is everyone's favorite...

but it's John 3:16 paired with John 3:17 that makes the verse stand out.

SLIDE JOHN 3:16–17

[16] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LOVE SLIDE

What kind of God is Jesus?

- He loves.
- He gives.
- He saves.
- He does not condemn.

We will get into this more next week

- when we see the doctrine of Christ's Humanity,

but for today:

- Some of you need to grow in your submission to his divinity,
- While others need to grow in your love for a divine savior.

DIVINITY SLIDE

ENDING

So, this is the real Jesus.

- He is GOD...WITH...US...
- He's the CREATOR.
- And SUSTAINER.
- And he's the SAVIOR!
 - He names the stars,
 - he holds the planets,
 - he created the galaxies,
 - he calms the storms,
 - he commands demons,
 - he knows our thoughts.
 - He's the same yesterday, today, and forever!

 - AND...he loves you.
 - He's pursuing you.
 - He knows your name.
 - He purposes your days,

- he knows the number of hairs on your head,
- he knows when you come and when you go.

- And he DEMANDS your submission...

- and DELIGHTS in your affection.

Some of you are in desperate need of an encounter...

with the divine Jesus this Christmas.

That's what's on the table!

- Submit to him.
- Love him.
- Immanuel.
- GOD...US...WITH

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology.
- Tafilowski, Ryan. *Fathom Academy: Christian Theology (Week 3): Christology, Pt: 1*.