The Deity of Christ: Refuting Some False Arguments (Part 2)

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This article intends to further debunk the false arguments that some brethren in the Lord's church advocate concerning the Deity of Christ. In a previous article published in <u>Unmasking Sophistry</u> and on the <u>La Vista church of Christ website</u>, I addressed 5 major arguments advanced by these brethren and showed that the concept of Jesus being a "created God" is simply a fable. Some of the brethren who believed that Jesus was created got very upset over that article of mine and devoted some of their broadcast airtime to discussing it. I took my time to listen to all three broadcasts by these brethren, waiting patiently to see if they would at least try to address my arguments and the Bible passages cited in my initial article. But to my surprise, all I heard was a bitter diatribe and vituperations against me from start to finish. Various terms were used to describe me and the article such as "coward", "blasphemer", "lost" "foolishness," etc. Indeed, I am very happy to be called by all these names because Jesus said, "*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me*" (Matthew 5:11). It is a joyous thing for me to receive all these insults simply because I believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is God and He is **uncreated**.

Since their three broadcasts did not address my arguments, it obviously does not deserve a response. But they have been busy churning out a series of questions and demanding answers from me (even without answering any of mine). In fact, some of them have already started implying that I cannot answer their questions and that Lesley "has started a war he cannot complete." Because of this, I will address their queries in this article so they can at least know that I am not afraid of their questions – and I challenge anyone of them to meet me in a public debate on this issue. I will affirm that **Jesus Christ Our Lord, is God and Was Not Created.** Since we are constrained by distance, we can arrange for it to be done online. Meanwhile, let us get down to business.

Jesus Was Made

Without answering my question in the previous article, these brethren repeatedly quibble over the statement about Jesus being "made." This time, they introduced another passage to prove their point. They ran to I Corinthians 14:45 which reads in the King James Version thus: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." The quibble is still the same: they claim that the word "made" means "to create" and so Jesus was created. Observe carefully as I offer three strong rebuttals to this argument.

First, the same Greek word for "made" as used in I Corinthians 14:45 is also used in Matthew 23:15 when Jesus said "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and <u>when he is made,</u> ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves" (KJV). Was Jesus implying that the Scribes and Pharisees created the proselyte? Was*

the proselyte not in existence before he was made by the scribes and Pharisees? I need these brethren to answer this question. They evaded it before, but they must answer now.

Second, if "made" means "created", then the implication of this doctrine would be that the first Adam was created before the second Adam and that would prove that Adam was created before Jesus. But these brethren have been arguing that Jesus was created at a time before Genesis 1. If that is true, how come He was the "last Adam" to be made a quickening spirit? Why would the "first creature" suddenly becomes the "last Adam"?

Third, if you check the original Greek translation of I Corinthians 14:45, you would see that the word "made" is not there before "a quickening spirit." The word "made" is only used once in reference to Adam. The KJV translators merely repeated it a second time to probably give the text a smooth reading. Hence, what we have in the text is this: "*The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam, a quickening spirit.*" These brethren are simply arguing over a word that is not even in the original Greek. But even if it is there, their interpretation is still faulty!

Is Jesus A Created God To Be Worshipped?

In my erstwhile article, I mentioned that the concept of Jesus being "a created God" is just like the concept of "a married bachelor," – that is, both are contradictions in thought and do not exist. In other words, if Jesus is God, He cannot be created. And to prove the concept of "a created god," our beloved brethren ran to II Corinthians 4:3-4 where reference is made to "the god of this age" and then John 10:34 where Jesus quoted a verse in Psalm 82:6 ("you are gods"). According to these brethren, "the god of this age" is the Devil, and since he was created, that proves Jesus was also created. Also, they claim that the "gods" in John 10:34 refer to humans, and since humans were created too, that proves that Jesus is a created God. They argue that the same Greek word is translated as "God/god" in both John 1:1-3 and II Corinthians 4:3-4 and we cannot argue for a different meaning of the word in both contexts.

It is a pity that these brethren do not know the difference between Deity (the Supreme Divinity) and "a god". And just like the Jehovah's Witnesses, they are confused whenever they see the word "God" or "god" in the Bible. They do not know that the God of heaven who made all things in John 1:1-3 is not the same as "the god of this age" in II Corinthians 4:3-4. And if the "god of this age" is created, that would not be proof that the God of heaven was created. They need to give us a scripture that proves that the God of heaven was created. When I looked up the Greek word "*Theos*" (g2316), I found that there are at least 2 definitions of the word. One is "God" and the other is "a god" (see the picture on page 3). It seems that our brethren need to learn how to use a Bible dictionary or concordance and not just scream that because two words are translated from a particular Greek word, then it must mean the same thing. This grave error that they expound about Jesus being created is over their misunderstanding and misapplication of certain words as used in the Bible. The word "god" in John 10:34, II Corinthians 4:3, or Joshua 23:7 does not refer to Deity. And when I say Jesus is not "a created God" I simply mean He (like His Father) was not created. Jesus has ALL the attributes of God!

One of the attributes of God is "eternal" (Psalm 90:2). Eternal means without beginning. Jesus is also said to have been "from everlasting" or from eternity (Micah 5:2). This attribute is shared by

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our brethren were silent about this passage in their broadcasts. Not one solitary time did they attempt to explain that text. Besides, I cited Romans 1:25 in my last article which clearly teaches that it is a sin to worship anything that is created. Again, they were as silent as a graveyard on that passage. But it seems that these brethren do not even believe that Jesus is God. In their very first broadcast published on YouTube on April 10, 2023, the title of their broadcast is: "Refuting The Deity of Christ". How on earth would you claim that Jesus is God and at the same time, set out to "refute the Deity of Christ?" Perhaps, the only logical explanation to that is that they simply do not believe in the Deity of Christ.

In trying to fault my example of a "married bachelor," one of them asked me if I also find the concept of a "virgin mother" to be absurd. My response is simple: I do not find the virgin birth to be absurd because the Bible clearly teaches it (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). But I find the concept of a created Deity (God) to be extremely absurd because the Bible does not teach so. Notice that by asking me this question, they have inadvertently admitted that their concept of "a created God" is contradictory and absurd! If not, why ask me about a virgin mother if they really think "a created God" makes sense? They ought to have simply proven that the concept is taught in the Bible and not coin a supposed contradictory statement as proof. The truth is: one of the attributes of God is "eternal" and if one believes Jesus is God, then one must believe He is eternal (Micah 5:2).

Conclusion

Those were the substances I could pick from the three uploaded broadcasts. Apart from their continuous diatribe, others were mere regurgitation of failed arguments such as "Father and Son relationship in heaven," "Jesus is the beginning of the creation," "Jesus is the firstborn," etc. All these were masterfully addressed in my previous article and up till now, there is not a single rebuttal to it. Before I end this writing, I would like to say to these brethren who are teaching this doctrine to kindly study this subject with all humility. They said that all those who believe the same thing as I believe are lost. Well, as I told them before, I have not found anyone in the church of Christ teaching that Jesus Christ was created. But I do remember that the Jehovah's Witnesses are clearly in agreement with them on this. Are they Jehovah's Witnesses or are they members of the Lord's church as they claim?



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Questions for Our Brethren Who Disagree

- 1. Do you believe Jesus is God? Yes or No?
- 2. If yes, why did you upload a YouTube video where you are "refuting the Deity of Christ" as seen in the picture above?
- 3. Does the word "made" as used in I Corinthians 15:45 and Hebrews 1:4 means "created"? Yes or No?
- 4. If yes, did Jesus mean that the Scribes and Pharisees created the proselyte in Matthew 23:15? The same Greek word is used in all three passages.
- 5. Does the word "begotten" as used in Hebrews 1:5 means "created"? Yes or No?
- 6. If yes, did Paul mean that he created the Corinthians in I Corinthians 4:15 when he said he has begotten them? The same Greek word is used in both passages.
- 7. Do you agree with Romans 1:25 that Creature worship is sinful?
- 8. When Jesus referred to "the beginning of the creation" in Mark 10:6 and Mark 13:19, was He referring to Genesis 1 or a time prior to Genesis 1?
- 9. When Micah 5:2 teaches that Jesus is from everlasting or from eternity, what does that mean to you?
- 10. Do you agree that Jesus has ALL the attributes of God?
- 11. Do you agree that one of the attributes of God is eternal (Psalm 90:2) which means without beginning?
- 12. If Jesus is the "LAST" Adam who was made, how is He the FIRST to be made? Is that not a contradiction?
- 13. Do you believe that "the god of this age" is the same as "the God who made everything"? If no, what is the difference?
- 14. Does the word "firstborn" always suggest first to be created? Yes or No?
- 15. If yes, how is Ephraim the firstborn (Jeremiah 31:9) when Manasseh is the first child (Genesis 48:14)?
- 16. In Galatians 3:26, we read, *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* Does this suggest any kind of physical begetting?
- 17. If no, would the Father and Son relationship as per Christ and His Father suggest any kind of physical begetting?

I hope that these brethren will go on their radio programme and read out all these questions one after the other and then provide answers to them. Honesty and consistency demand that they do so. According to one of them, he said a coward is one that cannot answer questions when thrown at him. I hope I get to receive answers to these questions and not just a regurgitation of endless quibbles and vituperations!