

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On May 12, 2013, we received two emails regarding whether we should worship Jesus. One asked:

“I have a question. With so much debate on the relationship of Jesus to his Father and Jesus receiving all the authority....can we pray to Jesus? Do you? Just curious.”

The other wrote:

“Referring to the [response given on 5/11/13 regarding the Honor and Glory Given To Jesus]:

“Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life, and we have believed and come to know that you are the Holy One of God.” – John 6:68, 69. Jesus has the sayings of life as He is the way, the truth and the life John 14:6. Not a group of 8 men claiming to be divinely appointed in 1919 as the Faithful and Discreet Slave of Matt chapter 24:45-47. Jesus also invited Christians to come to him to learn and be refreshed Matt 11:28-30 and to come to him to receive life John 5:40. He also stated that gaining everlasting life also required coming to know him the Greek at John 17:3 meaning much more than taking in knowledge about him as well as his Father but having a close personal relationship with him. a close companionship.

“JW's are denied such a relationship with Jesus as they have been told they are not to pray, communicate with or call on the name of Jesus despite his invitation at John 14:14 where in the Greek he states "If you ask ME anything in my name, I will do it". The scriptural evidence shows the early Christians responded to his invitation. see Acts 7:59, 9:14, 9:21; 1 Cor 1:2, 2 Cor 12:8-10 and also Paul's personal relationship with Jesus is demonstrated at Acts 23:11. In Rev 5:6-14 The Lamb is prayed to, sung to and worshipped.

“Never at a Kingdom Hall meeting of JW's will you hear a prayer directly addressed to Jesus. The vast majority of JW's deny being in a covenant relationship with Jesus and he being their mediator (1 Tim 2:5-6) when at their annual memorial meeting of his death they do not partake of the bread and wine despite his counsel at John 6: 48-58.

“By refusing to partake of the bread and the wine they are in effect whether they realize it or not refusing to confess union with Christ. Jesus stated at Matt 10:32-33 "Everyone then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens; but whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father who is in the heavens."

To the authors, thank you both for your emails. Whether we should pray to and/or worship Jesus is a valid question, especially in light of our repeated statements of the importance of following Christ, honoring him, and glorifying him. Our response to the first email is contained within our response to the second.

We agree with all of what was written in the second email, with one exception. We do not believe it is proper to worship Jesus. We believe the author's conclusion is based on Revelation 5:13-14, where it says:

“And every creature that is in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth and on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying: “To the One sitting on the throne **and** to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.” And the four living creatures went saying: “Amen!” and **the elders fell down and worshiped.**” – *Revelation 5:13-14*

Based on what we understand about Jesus and what he taught while on earth, worship goes only to the Father. Here is an excerpt from an article we published entitled **The Significance of Substituting for Christ:**

In all that he did, Jesus always worshiped the Father and he always directed his followers to worship to the Father. The discussion in the gospel of John continues as Jesus says:

“**If you men had known me, you would have known my Father also;** from this moment on you know him and have seen him.’

“Philip said to him: ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’

“Jesus said to him: ‘Have I been with you men so long a time, and yet, Philip, you have not come to know me? **He that has seen me has seen the Father [also].** How is it you say, “Show us the Father?” Do you not believe that I am in union with the Father and the Father is in union with me? **The things I say to you men I do not speak of my own originality; but the Father who remains in union with me is doing his works.** Believe me that I am in union with the Father and the Father is in union with me; otherwise, believe on account of the works themselves.” – *John 14:7-11*

Jesus made it clear that he always does the will of the Father in both his actions and in his speech. And he taught that the Christian congregation – as members of his own body – should likewise worship only the Father:

“Then Jesus said to him: ‘Go away, Satan! For it is written, “It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and **it is to him alone you must render sacred service.**”’” – *Matthew 4:10*

So then, all **worship** goes to the Father. To no one else do we render sacred service. Yes, Jesus is a worshiper of the Father. **Jesus does not accept worship!** Understanding this about Jesus makes it easier to follow his example, for though he was the Son of God, he was also the Son of Man.

We note, however, that **petitions** can be made directly to the Son and he will answer all such requests:

“Most truly I say to you, He that exercises faith in me, that one also will do the works that I do; and he will do works greater than these, because I am going my way to the Father. Also, **whatever it is**

that you ask in my name, I will do this, in order that the Father may be glorified in connection with the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.” – John 14:12-14

Although the Revelation is presented in signs and symbols, we can rightly assume that, in the scripture cited at the beginning of the response, “the One seated on the throne” is the Father, and “the Lamb” is Jesus Christ. And we note that the scripture does not indicate to whom the worship was directed. The 24 elders fell down and worshiped in the presence of both the “One seated on the throne” and in the presence of “the Lamb,” among others.

Based on what Jesus taught, we believe what happened was that the 24 elders fell down and worshiped the Father, “the One seated on the throne,” not “the Lamb.” Think about it. It is certainly possible that one could worship the Father in the presence of another. We do it all the time. Have you not worshiped the Father in the presence of others, such as your family? This is what we believe the 24 elders were doing.

Therefore, we remain firm in our conclusion that while Jesus is to be given glory and honor, and will respond to our prayers for assistance, worship is to be directed only to the Father. Jesus’ arrival did not change to whom we worship. It only changed to whom we look to for truth and direction.

“Elaia Luchnia”

We also received two emails in support of our response:

May 12, 2013 - Dear Brothers: I read the reader's reply to your article on Jesus being the "the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6) The Bible is very clear as to the importance of witnessing to the Son and glorifying him. John 16:14 shows that the holy spirit would be active in the present age "glorifying [the Greek word means to "praise, honor, magnify"] me [Jesus]." So if God's holy spirit is truly active in a Christian his or her heartfelt desire would be to glorify the Son. To do otherwise would put a Christian in mortal danger since he would be disrespecting our heavenly Father's desire to see His dearly beloved Son honored or glorified. John 5:22, 23 says: "For the Father judges no one at all, but he has committed all the judging to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He that does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him." According to John's first letter the antichrist, literally "against Christ" would made up of those who do not 'confess the Son.' The Greek word used for confess carries the idea of "declaring publicly, acknowledging, confessing."

May 12, 2013 - Thank you, dear Brothers. Your answer is quite correct in my eyes and that are the thoughts in my elaboration I sent to the Governing Body last year. Thank’s for this testimony in favor of our Father Jehovah and his beloved son Jesus Christ.
