Jesus: God’s Only Begotten Son

Intro: John calls Jesus the “Only Begotten” five times. However some are denying that He is the only begotten.

I. Modernist Attack Christ’s Deity.
   A. The Modernist have attacked the deity of Christ in many areas.
      1. Denied His miracles.
      2. Denied His resurrection.
   B. They have denied the virgin birth of our Lord.
      1. Isa. 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
         b. While this is not a study of the Hebrew almah, it always refers to a virgin.
         c. Matthew gives an inspired commentary on this verse.
            (1) Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
            (2) Matthew uses a word which cannot mean anything other than a virgin: παρθένος (parthenos).
      2. The translation of the Greek word μόνογενής (monogenes) as something other than “only begotten.”

II. “Only Begotten”
   A. Passages where it is used referring to Christ.
      1. John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
      2. John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
      3. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
      4. John 3:18 “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
      5. 1 John 4:9 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”
   B. Other times it is used.
      1. Luke 7:12 “Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.”
      2. Luke 8:42 “For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.”
      3. Luke 9:38 “And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.”
      4. Heb. 11:17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”
C. **Study of μονογενής (monogenēs).**

1. The word itself.
   a. Made up of two parts:
      (1) μόνος (monos) meaning one or only.
      (2) γενής (genes) possibly from γένος (genos) meaning “race, stock, family, offspring, even a single, descendant, a child, a race in regard to number, sex, a class, sort, kind” according to Liddell and Scott.
   b. Thus, the word means:
      (1) In reference to things “only and the same.”
      (2) In reference to persons “only begotten.”

2. In reference to Jesus, since He is a person (not a thing) it should be “only begotten” not “only one of a kind” or “unique.”

D. **The Debate over translation of μονογενής (monogenēs).**

1. Christians are begotten of God, thus improper to call anyone only begotten (would involve the Bible in a contradiction).
   a. Christians are begotten of God.
      (1) 1 Cor. 4:15 “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
      (2) Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
      (3) 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
   b. Every time “only begotten” is used it is in the context of our Christians being begotten of God.
      (1) John 1:11-14, 18 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth....18No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
      (2) Talking to Nicodemus:
         (a) John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....5Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
         (b) John 3:16, 18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life....18He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
1 John 4:7, 9 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God...” In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”

We are sons of God, but He is that special Son of God.

(a) There is a world of difference in being in the heart begotten by the truth leading to a spiritual birth and being in the womb of Mary begotten by the Holy Spirit.

(b) No one has ever been conceived like Jesus was.

2. Begotten implies that Jesus is a created being, that He is had a beginning and not is eternal.

a. He is eternal.

(1) John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(2) John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

b. The Scriptures often talk about Jesus being begotten.

(1) Psa. 2:7 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

(2) Acts 13:33 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”

(3) Heb. 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”

(4) Heb. 5:5 “So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”

c. “Only Begotten” refers to His virgin birth.

III. THE BIRTH OF JESUS

A. Woman was involved in the conception of our Lord.

1. Gen. 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

2. Isa. 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

3. Gal. 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made born of a woman, made under the law,”

B. God was involved in the conception of our Lord.

1. Mat. 1:20-23 “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
2. Luke 1:26-38 “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”

3. Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

C. Thus, Jesus is the God—Man.
1. Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
2. 1 Tim. 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
3. John 1:1, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Conclusion: The Modernist today are trying to take away our Lord; one way is the denial of the virgin birth of our Lord and denial of “only begotten.” If Christ was not the “only begotten” Son of God, we could not be adopted into the family of God and become Sons of God. If you have not been born of water and the Spirit, by baptism into Christ, do so today.