

8 "Wasn't the deity of Christ an invention by the church during the fourth century at the Council of Nicea?"

Not at all. The deity of Christ was mentioned in the Old Testament era more than 600 years before Jesus was born. Isaiah the prophet foretold that the Messiah would be called "Mighty God "in Isaiah 9:6. That certainly proved true.

The New Testament, which was completed in the first century, long before the Council of Nicea, is full of affirmations of Christ's deity. For instance, Thomas called Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Paul calls Jesus, "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). John called Jesus "God" in the opening verse of his Gospel (John 1:1). Jesus applied the name of God used in the Old Testament, "I AM" (Exodus 3:14), to Himself in John 8:58. He also said that God was His Father, resulting in some of His listeners trying to stone Him for making Himself "equal with God" (John 5:18; 10:33).

The second-century writings of church fathers, like Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and Clement of Alexandria, are filled with references to Christ's deity.

The resolution passed at the Council of Nicea in AD 325 was a reaffirmation of what the church at large already believed.

The real issue at work with someone how holds the view that the deity of Jesus was invented, is that they deny the reliability of God's Word, especially the Gospels.

Great Quote about Jesus:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), professor and author. *Mere Christianity* (Mac-Millan, 1960), pp. 40-41.