



Many Christians have been taught and believe that Jesus Christ is Almighty God because he actually forgave sins while he was on earth. Does forgiving sins mean that Jesus is God? Let's analyze the scriptures objectively, and see for ourselves.

Mark 2:5-7 – **“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Child, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, ‘Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?’” (NAB).** Does this assertion by Jesus’ enemies that, ‘only God can forgive sins’, mean that Jesus is God? Notice next what term Jesus uses to describe himself:

Mark 2:10 – **“The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth” (NAB).** – “The Son of Man” means that Jesus was cannot be God, since **“God is not a human being” (Numbers 23:19 NAB).** “The Word became flesh” (John 1:14). When Jesus was born on earth, he was “fully human in every way” (Hebrews 2:17 NIV), so he could not be God.

Matthew 9:2 – **“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Courage, child, your sins are forgiven’” (NAB).** Jesus forgives sins. (See Acts 5:30-31.) Trinitarians claim this makes Jesus God. Matthew 9:6 says Jesus has authority to forgive sins. **“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (NAB).** The ‘authority to forgive sins’ had been bestowed on Jesus as God’s **“representative” (John 5:43 Williams New Testament),** obviously. God doesn’t need anyone’s authority. In fact, **Matthew 9:8** says, **“The crowd . . . praised God for sending a man with such great authority” (NLT 2013 edition).** Jesus said, **“God sent me” (John 8:42 NIV),** so he could not be God.

Luke 5:20-24 – **“Your sins are forgiven . . . Who but God alone can forgive sins? . . . that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . .”**
(**NAB**) – Who gave Jesus this authority? – God the Father did!

Does forgiving sins mean Jesus is God? Not according to the scriptures themselves, it doesn't.