THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about deification?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 15 numbered quotations · the 44 early Christian passages and 215 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-deification

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers taught that the Son of God became man so that people could become sons of God by grace. Joined to Christ, believers share in His life, receive His likeness and are given immortality. The passages make clear this is by God's gift, not by nature; Christ alone is Son by nature.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

God became man so we could become sons

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus gives the reason for the incarnation. The Son of God became the Son of man so that people, joined to the Word, could be adopted as sons of God. He links this to receiving freedom and eternal life through Christ.

1 “For it was for this purpose that the Word of God became man, and He who was the Son of God became the Son of man, so that man, being joined to the Word and receiving adoption, might become the son of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 2 OF 8

By grace, not by nature

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Alexander of Alexandria draws a clear line. Christ is God's Son by nature, but our adoption is a free gift of God, shown in a good life, and it can be lost. Gregory Thaumaturgus likewise says Christ is not a son by adoption, as angels and people are.

2 “But the adoption of rational sons does not belong to them by nature. It is prepared for them by the probity of their life and by the free gift of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER
Alexander of Alexandria, *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (c. 313–328 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 44, page 9 **Read it in the library ›**

3 “He is not like a spoken word, nor like a son by adoption, in the sense in which angels and men are called sons of God, but as a Son who is by nature God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 24, page 8 **Read it in the library ›**

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POINT 3 OF 8

Believers receive the likeness of Christ

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Gregory Thaumaturgus says the Word became man so that we might be made divine after the likeness of the true Son of God. Clement describes the person in whom the Word dwells as taking on the Word's form and being made like God.

4 “For we hold that the Word of God was made man for our salvation, so that we might receive the likeness of the heavenly One and be made divine after the likeness of Him who is by nature the true Son of God, and according to the flesh the Son of man, our Lord Jesus Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 23, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

5 “But the man with whom the Word dwells does not alter himself and does not dress himself up. He has the form that is of the Word. He is made like God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 3.1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Christ came to restore God's image

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Liturgy of St. James prays that God, after man fell, sent His Son to renew His image in us. Gregory Thaumaturgus says man's first glory was taken up again in Christ's flesh and is given to all through faith.

6 “And when he transgressed Your commandment and fell away, You did not disregard him or desert him, O Good One, but disciplined him as a merciful father, called him by the law, instructed him by the prophets, and afterward sent out Your only begotten Son Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world, so that by His coming He might renew and restore Your image.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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7 “Man’s original glory was taken up into it again by the power of the divinity, and then was given to all men through the appropriation of faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Joined to God, we share His life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus argues that people could only share God's undying life if they were joined to God in Christ. Tatian says God made man so that, by sharing in a part of God, he might have life that does not die.

8 “And if humanity had not been joined to God, it could not have become a partaker of incorruptibility.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 3, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “He did this so that, just as incorruption is with God, in the same way man, by sharing in a part of God, might also have the immortal principle.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Address to the Greeks* 7 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Baptism brings new birth as God's children

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus preaches that through water and the Holy Spirit a person is born again and becomes a joint heir with Christ. The one who renounces the devil and confesses Christ comes up from baptism as a son of God.

10 “And if he is made God by water and the Holy Spirit after the regeneration of the laver, he is found to be also a joint heir with Christ after the resurrection from the dead.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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11 “And, what is indeed the chief thing, he returns as a son of God and a joint heir with Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Even the body will be made immortal

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus promises believers an immortal body and a share in Christ's kingdom. Irenaeus says the body becomes immortal not by its own nature but by the Lord's power, at the resurrection.

12 “And you will have an immortal body, one placed beyond the possibility of corruption, just like the soul.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Refutation of All Heresies* 30 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 15, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

13 “Its transformation occurs in such a way that, while it is mortal and corruptible, it becomes immortal and incorruptible, not due to its own inherent nature but through the mighty working of the Lord, who can bestow immortality on the mortal and incorruption on the corruptible.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

God's children are called to obey

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

The Apostolic Constitutions remind those who call God Father that they must live in obedience to Him. Hippolytus likewise ties being born into God's adoption to turning away from sin. Grace and a free, obedient response go together.

14 “Take care, you children of God, to do all things in obedience to God, and in all things please Christ our Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 31, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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15 “If you no longer practice adultery, and do not commit murder, and do not serve idols; if you are not mastered by pleasure; if you do not let pride rule you; if you wash away the filth of impurity, and put off the burden of sin; if you throw off the armor of the devil, and put on the breastplate of faith, just as Isaiah says, "Wash yourselves, and seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say that people become God in the same way Christ is God; they speak of sharing His life by grace.
- They do not give a detailed account of how this change happens day by day in the believer's life.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 44 early Christian passages and 215 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–44, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 45–141, in Bible order), then 118 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *44 passages from 14 writers*

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 1*

1 *Dialogue with Trypho* I noticed that they were upset because I said we are the sons of God, I anticipated their questions and said, “Listen, gentlemen, to how the Holy Spirit speaks about… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 2*

2 *Address to the Greeks* 7 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “the heavenly Logos, a spirit emanating from the Father and a Logos from the Logos-power, in imitation of the Father who begot Him made man an image of immortality… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 3–8*

3 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "in what way could we be partaken of the adoption of sons, unless we had received from Him through the Son that fellowship which refers to Himself, unless His Word… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 1, page 2** "will die like men." He undoubtedly speaks these words to those who have not received the gift of adoption and who despise the incarnation of the pure generation of the… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 1) "Son of God being made the Son of man, that through Him we may receive the adoption,—humanity sustaining, and receiving, and embracing the Son of God… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 13, page 5** this "body of humiliation" that the Lord will transform to conform to "the body of His glory?" Clearly, it is this body made of flesh, which is indeed humbled when… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book III* among the gods." Here, He refers to the Father and the Son, and those who have received the adoption; these are the Church. For she is the synagogue of God… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English; on point 1) "that He teaches that that adoption of sons pertaining to the Father, which is eternal life, takes place through Himself, conferring it [as He does] on all the righteous… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 9–13*

9 *Stromata* 3 (on point 2) themselves Gnostics. They say that by nature they themselves are sons of the first God. But abusing that nobility and freedom, they live as they please, and what they please… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Stromata* 2.22 (on point 3) to him from the law. And having in the Theaetetus admitted that evils make the circuit of mortal nature and of this place, he adds: "Therefore we must try to… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 (on point 4) the senseless work of Attic hands. For the image of God is His Word, the true Son of Mind, the Divine Word, the original light of light. And the image… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Instructor* 3.1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "is made like to God; he is beautiful… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 6.12 (on point 5) "God created man for immortality and made him an image of His own nature… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 14*

14 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "made man from earth after Your own image and likeness… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Refutation of All Heresies* 30 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** "you have become God: for whatever sufferings you underwent while being a man, these He gave to you, because you were of mortal mould, but whatever it is consistent with… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 **Quote 10, page 4** "if he is made God by water and the Holy Spirit after… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 **Quotes 11, 15, pages 5, 6** "then, O man, be born again into God's adoption. And how? someone says. If you no longer practice adultery, and do not commit murder, and do not serve idols… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 18–22*

18 *Against Celsus* 28 (1885 English; on point 5) "they saw also that the power which had descended into human nature, and into the midst of human miseries, and which had assumed a human soul and body, contributed through… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 6 (on point 4) possibility of reaching perfection was granted to him at the beginning through the dignity of the divine image, and the complete realization of the divine likeness is reached in the… [continues online] **read ›**

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20 *Against Celsus* 63 (on point 4) head is Christ is the image and glory of God. But Celsus also does not notice which part of human nature the phrase "after the image of God" refers to… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Celsus* 57 (on point 2) “you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Letter to Gregory* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “you partake in these; may you have an always increasing share of them, so that you may be able to say not only, We are partakers of Christ, Hebrews 3… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 23–26*

23 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “we hold that the Word of God was made man on account of our salvation, in order that we might receive the likeness of the heavenly, and be made divine… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 **Quote 3, page 2** has the perfect Word truly begotten from Him. He is not like a spoken word, nor like a son by adoption, in the sense in which angels and men are… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 **Quote 7, page 4** “that the flesh was made one with the… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “believe, therefore, that it was without any change in the Divinity that the incarnation of the Word took place with a view to the renewal of humanity… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 27–29*

27 *Treatises* (on point 6) “indeed of God, but joint-heirs with Christ, if we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 6) “of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Epistles* (on point 6) what a thing it is to claim and insist that those who are not born in the Church can be sons of God! For the blessed apostle declares and proves… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 30–32*

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) them, and prepare them so that they may become worthy of Your spiritual gift, and of the true adoption of Your spiritual mysteries, of being gathered together with those who… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 14, page 5** “and His beloved vineyard, Isaiah 5:7. It contains those who have believed in His unfailing divine religion. They are the heirs, by faith, of His everlasting kingdom. They share… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) “He is the teacher of piety. Next after God, he is your father, who has begotten you again to the adoption of sons by water and the Spirit. He is… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 33–34*

33 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) only those who have received Him, and yet receive Him, have obtained power to become the sons of God… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “how shall any one tell me that our father Adam was made after the image of God, and in His likeness, and that he is like Him who made him… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 35–39*

35 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 7) flesh was made to stand between incorruption and corruption, being itself neither one nor the other, and since it was overcome by corruption for the sake of pleasure, though it… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 1) “of this true Son of Yours, who is equal with You in glory and power, have been received into the adoption of sons… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 1) of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5 And then, about… [continues online] **read ›**

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38 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 7) that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption, 1 Corinthians 15:50. By flesh, he did not mean flesh itself, but the irrational… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (1885 English; on point 4) "to him was given the form and image of God, with every part accurately finished, after the very original likeness of the Father and the only-begotten Son… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 40–42*

40 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 7) the flesh was made to stand between incorruption and corruption, being itself neither one nor the other, and since it was overcome by corruption for the sake of pleasure, though… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 7) that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption, 1 Corinthians 15:50. By flesh, he did not mean flesh itself, but the irrational… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (1885 English; on point 4) "to him was given the form and image of God, with every part accurately finished, after the very original likeness of the Father and the only-begotten Son… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · sources 43–44*

43 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 2) "these, laying aside the spirit of bondage, when by brave deeds and by progress they have received the spirit of adoption, being blessed by Him who is the Son by… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** "Therefore, the only begotten Son of the Father indeed possesses an indefectible Sonship. But the adoption of rational sons does not belong to them by nature. It is prepared for… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *97 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

45 **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man according to our image and according to likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the earth, and all the creeping things that creep on the earth." **read ›**

46 **Genesis 1:27** So God made man; according to the image of God he made him; male and female he made them. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 2:7** Then God formed the man of dust from the earth, and breathed into his face the breath of life, and the man became a living soul. **read ›**

48 **Genesis 2:18** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make for him a helper suited to him." **read ›**

49 **Genesis 3:21** The Lord God made tunics of skin for Adam and for his wife, and clothed them. **read ›**

50 **Genesis 3:22** Then God said, "Behold, Adam has become like one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he stretch out his hand and take from the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" **read ›**

51 **Genesis 5:1** This is the book of the generation of men. In the day that God made Adam, he made him according to the image of God. **read ›**

52 **Genesis 5:2** Male and female he made them, and he blessed them, and he called his name Adam, in the day that he made them. **read ›**

53 **Genesis 6:2** the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves from all those whom they chose. **read ›**

54 **Genesis 6:6** God took to heart that he had made man on the earth, and he pondered it. **read ›**

55 **Genesis 42:11** We are all sons of one man. We are men of peace; your servants are not spies." **read ›**

56 **Exodus 29:8** Then you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 25:45** and from the sons of the temporary residents who are among you, from these you shall buy, and from their relatives, as many as are in your land; let them be your possession. **read ›**

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58 **Deuteronomy 4:16** lest you act lawlessly and make for yourselves a carved likeness, any image, the likeness of male or female, **read ›**

59 **Deuteronomy 23:9** When you go out to encamp against your enemies, you shall keep yourself from every evil thing. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:10 (Deuteronomy 23:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

60 **2 Samuel 7:14** I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. And if his unrighteousness comes, I will correct him with the rod of men and with the strokes of the sons of men. **read ›**

61 **Job 33:6** You were formed from clay, as I was; we have been formed from the same. **read ›**

62 **Song of Solomon 6:3** I am my kinsman's, and my kinsman is mine; he shepherds among the lilies. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 13:3** I am giving command, and I bring them; giants are coming to fulfill my wrath, rejoicing and insulting together. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 13:17** Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against you, who do not regard silver, nor have need of gold. **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 13:20** It will never be inhabited, nor will they enter it at all for many generations; nor will Arabians ever pass through it, nor will shepherds ever rest in it. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 17:12** Woe to the multitude of many nations! Like the surging sea, so you will be troubled; and the back of many nations will roar like water. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 18:3** all of them, will be inhabited like an inhabited country; their land will be as when a signal is raised from a mountain; it will be heard like the sound of a trumpet. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 44:17** for we will surely do every word that goes out of our mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her, as we and our fathers and our kings and our rulers did in the cities of Judah and outside Jerusalem; and we were filled with bread, and were well, and saw no evils. (Septuagint Jeremiah 51:17 (Jeremiah 44:17 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Ezekiel 33:6** But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not sound the trumpet, and the people do not take warning, and the sword comes and takes a person from among them, that person was taken because of his own iniquity, but I will require the blood at the hand of the watchman. **read ›**

72 **Ezekiel 40:19** And he measured the breadth of the court, from the open court of the outer gate on the inside to the open court of the gate facing outward, a hundred cubits, of the gate facing east. And he brought me to the north, **read ›**

73 **Ezekiel 41:25** And there was carving on them, and on the doors of the temple were cherubim, and palm trees, according to the carving of the holy places; and there were solid timbers in front of the porch outside. **read ›**

74 **Daniel 3:12** There are certain Jews whom you appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who have not obeyed your decree, O king; they do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden image that you have set up." **read ›**

75 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

76 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:23** For God created man for incorruption, and made him an image of his own nature. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:19** and incorruption brings one near to God; **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:26** For she is a radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:27** Though she is one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets. **read ›**

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83 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:27** For in the things at which they were angry when they suffered, in those they thought to be gods, being punished by them, seeing him whom they had long refused to know, they recognized the true God; therefore the final condemnation came upon them. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Solomon 13:5** For from the greatness of the beauty of created things their Creator is correspondingly seen. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:8** But the idol made with hands is cursed, both it and he who made it; because he worked it, and the perishable thing was named a god. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:20** And the multitude, drawn by the grace of the work, now regarded as an object of worship the man who shortly before had been honored. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:16** For a man made them, and one whose spirit is borrowed formed them; for no man is able to form a god like himself. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:1** But for your holy ones there was very great light; and the others, hearing their voice but not seeing their form, counted them blessed because they too had suffered, **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:10** Be like a father to orphans, and like a husband to their mother; and you will be like a son of the Most High, and he will love you more than your mother does. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:1** The Lord created man out of earth, and returned him to it again. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:3** He clothed them with strength fitting for them, and made them according to his image. **read ›**

92 **Baruch 3:37** After this he appeared on earth and lived among men. **read ›**

93 **Baruch 5:2** Put on the double cloak of the righteousness that comes from God; set on your head the miter of the glory of the Everlasting. **read ›**

94 **1 Maccabees 15:34** Now that we have the opportunity, we are holding firmly to the inheritance of our fathers. **read ›**

95 **2 Maccabees 12:45** And then, looking to the most splendid reward laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness—a holy and godly thought—he therefore made atonement for the dead, that they might be released from their sin. **read ›**

96 **3 Maccabees 2:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **3 Maccabees 6:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **4 Maccabees 7:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **4 Maccabees 13:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 13:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 16:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 17:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 17:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **4 Maccabees 18:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **4 Maccabees 18:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **1 Enoch 15:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **1 Enoch 58:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **1 Enoch 69:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **1 Enoch 108:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, **read ›**

114 **John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. **read ›**

115 **Acts 17:29** Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and thought. **read ›**

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116 **Romans 3:19** Now we know that whatever things the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may be brought under the judgment of God. **read ›**

117 **Romans 6:8** But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, **read ›**

118 **Romans 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **read ›**

119 **Romans 8:17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him. **read ›**

120 **Romans 8:29** For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **read ›**

121 **1 Corinthians 5:2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, so that the one who did this deed might be removed from among you. **read ›**

122 **1 Corinthians 15:48** As is the one made of dust, such are those who are also made of dust; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 15:49** And as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, let us also bear the image of the heavenly one. **read ›**

124 **Galatians 3:26** For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

125 **Galatians 4:5** that he might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as children. **read ›**

126 **Galatians 4:6** And because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” **read ›**

127 **Galatians 4:7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **read ›**

128 **Ephesians 1:5** having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **read ›**

129 **Ephesians 4:24** and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. **read ›**

130 **Philippians 2:7** but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of men. **read ›**

131 **Colossians 1:12** giving thanks to the Father, who has made us fit to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **read ›**

132 **Colossians 2:9** For in him all the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily, **read ›**

133 **1 Timothy 3:16** And by common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. **read ›**

134 **Hebrews 3:14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm to the end, **read ›**

135 **1 Peter 4:13** But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. **read ›**

136 **2 Peter 1:3** since his divine power has granted us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us through glory and virtue, **read ›**

137 **2 Peter 1:4** by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises, that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. **read ›**

138 **2 Peter 1:7** and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. **read ›**

139 **2 Peter 1:8** For if these things are yours and abound, they make you neither idle nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**

140 **1 John 3:1** Behold what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God! Because of this the world does not know you, because it did not know him. **read ›**

141 **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *118 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Psalms 119:9

Proverbs 2:3 · 3:23 · 4:10

Isaiah 1:2 · 1:16 · 12:2 · 43:19

Jeremiah 5:8

Micah 6:6

Habakkuk 2:20

Matthew 3:17 · 5:16 · 5:20 · 5:24 · 5:25 · 6:24 · 7:7 · 8:22 · 13:35 · 22:29 · 26:38 · 28:19

Mark 2:10 · 10:2

Luke 1:79 · 2:22 · 2:29 · 2:36 · 6:30 · 7:35 · 9:60 · 12:58 · 14:11 · 15:7 · 16:9 · 16:13 · 19:5

John 1:3 · 1:6 · 3:2 · 4:9 · 5:19 · 5:24 · 6:11 · 10:3 · 10:34 · 14:6 · 17:21 · 17:22 · 17:24 · 19:23

Acts 5:38

Romans 2:14 · 2:15 · 3:8 · 3:20 · 5:4 · 6:4 · 6:14 · 6:15 · 6:16 · 6:22 · 7:24 · 8:21 · 8:32 · 16:20

1 Corinthians 1:21 · 1:24 · 2:6 · 6:20 · 9:20 · 9:25 · 9:27 · 11:1 · 15:22 · 15:34 · 15:42 · 15:50 · 15:53 · 15:54 · 15:56

2 Corinthians 3:6 · 3:7 · 5:1 · 5:2 · 5:4 · 5:7 · 6:14 · 6:18 · 11:13

Galatians 3:13 · 4:4 · 5:13

Ephesians 2:5 · 4:20 · 5:1 · 5:5

Philippians 3:20 · 4:3

Colossians 2:4 · 2:13

Hebrews 1:1 · 1:3 · 4:14 · 6:9 · 6:11 · 10:26

1 Peter 3:18 · 4:6

1 John 1:6 · 2:4 · 2:18 · 3:3 · 5:19

Revelation 2:6 · 3:21 · 5:10

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about deification?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did the early Christians believe about deification?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-deification. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 4.”

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