A Divine Sonship

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Video Transcript

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Begin Transcript:

When I first started studying the subject of the trinity, I realized very quickly, the first thing someone who rejects the trinity doctrine is accused of, is rejecting the divinity of Christ.

To reject the divinity of Christ, is a big big deal. There is perhaps nothing more fundamental to the Christian religion. If Jesus is not divine, then He is just a man. And if He is just a man, He has no ability to save anyone from their sins, and His sacrifice on the cross, being only a human sacrifice, would be insufficient to atone for sin. In John 1:1, we read that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

Christ is the Word, and clearly "the Word was God," so Christ is divine. Those who believe in the doctrine of the trinity profess that Jesus is divine, and those who reject the doctrine of the trinity, also profess Jesus to be divine. So, the question I want to ask is, WHY? Why is Christ divine? Because this is the question that divides those who believe in the trinity from those who don't.

The trinitarian believes Christ is divine because they believe Christ never had a beginning. They say, if Christ had a beginning, this would make Him a created being, and therefore, not divine. Here is the same sentiment from the publication Adventist World.

They write:
Jesus is divine. He exists from eternity (John 8:58). He never had a beginning…
https://www.adventistworld.org/incomparable-christ/

So the premise of the Trinitarian's argument, that those who reject the trinity are denying the divinity of Christ, is based on the understanding, that any being that has a beginning, is a created being and is therefore not divine.

So, what about those, such as myself, who reject the doctrine of the trinity? Do we believe Jesus is divine? Absolutely! But how? We believe Jesus is divine and has this divine nature by virtue of the fact He was literally born of the Father -- begotten from His own substance.

Sister White Tells us:

The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him as His right. This was no robbery of God. "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way," He declares, "before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth." (Proverbs 8:22-27) (1SM 247.4)

In this statement, Sister White declares Jesus Christ to be **"the divine Son of God."** From when? **"From eternity,"** which is here defined to mean, before the Earth was created, as designated by the words **"before His works of old."** The term **"from everlasting"** likewise, simply means, **"from the beginning, or ever the Earth was."** In speaking of the creation of the Earth Jesus declares **"when there were no depths, I was BROUGHT FORTH**" and **"when there were no fountains abounding with water."** Again he says **"before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth**." All of this is to say, Jesus was **brought forth** before the Earth was created.

Ellen White adds:
Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—**one in nature**, in character, in purpose—the **only being** that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2) (PP 34.1)

The inspired messenger said **Christ "was one with the eternal Father"** and then states how He was one with God. Christ was one with God **"in nature."** Why does Christ have this divine nature? **Christ is divine, because His Father was divine, and He was brought forth from His Father's own substance, and therefore, has the same nature as His divine Father that He was brought forth from.** We know He was brought forth FROM God, because Jesus told us in John 8:42 when He said: **"I proceeded forth and came from God."** (John 8:42)

Now, there are some that say Proverbs chapter 8 is speaking about Wisdom, and that this passage about Wisdom being brought forth is not speaking about Christ. "It's not talking about Jesus" he said (Doug Batchelor). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh90pOMNXcU

Is that true?

Let's let Sister White comment on this passage:
Through Solomon **Christ declared**: "The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.... When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the foundations of the earth; then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." [Proverbs 8:22-25, 29, 30.] In speaking of **His pre-existence**, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages." (ST August 29, 1900, par.15)

According to Sister White it is talking about Jesus. She says quite plainly, the passage is **"speaking of His pre-existence."** So, it IS talking about Jesus. More than that, since she writes **"through Solomon Christ**

declared," this means it is Jesus speaking. And since it is Jesus speaking, and since He is speaking about **"His own pre-existence"**, we cannot deny that this passage is Jesus speaking about Himself before the world existed. And if there be any doubt this bringing forth of wisdom in Proverbs 8 refers to Christ, Ellen White gives a second witness:

She writes:
His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." And **the Son of God declares concerning <u>Himself</u>:** "The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting…. When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was be Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." (Proverbs 8:20-30) (PP 34.1)

As clear as can be, she quotes Proverbs 8 and says of these words, **"the Son of God declares concerning Himself"**. So, when ministers say, "it's not talking about Jesus" (Doug Batchelor) we must reject the teachings of those ministers, unless we are to make of none effect the inspired writings. Wisdom in Proverbs chapter 8 is Jesus speaking **"concerning Himself"**

Does the Bible confirm this? Absolutely. In 1 Corinthians 1:24 the Bible calls **"Christ the power of God, and the WISDOM of God"** and in verse 30 we read of **"Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom…"** (1 Cor 1:24,30) So the Bible and Ellen White agree, that Wisdom, is yet another name of Christ. And in speaking of Himself as Wisdom, He is speaking through Solomon in the passage of **"His own pre-existence"** when He said concerning Himself, **"when there were no depths, I was BROUGHT FORTH."**

The most central verse of the Christian faith is **John 3:16**. "God so loved the world, that he gave his **only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." [John 3:16.] In commenting on the verse,

Sister White Writes:
God's love for the world was not manifest because He sent His Son, but because He loved the world He sent His Son into the world that divinity clothed with humanity might touch humanity, while divinity lay hold of infinity. Though sin had produced a gulf between man and his God, divine benevolence provided a plan to bridge that gulf. And what material did He use? **A part of <u>Himself</u>**." (Lt36a-1890.11)

In this statement, she writes that God's love was revealed in sending Christ, **"His son,"** and in it was in speaking of this, **"His Son,"** that she speaks of bridging the gulf between man and God; and in asking "What material did He use," she answers referring to Jesus as **"a part of Himself." Christ, the only begotten Son, was the material with which the eternal God brought forth from His own bosom, His only begotten Son. John writes of "the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father**," (John 1:18) and

Sister White wrote:
The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave **his only begotten Son, tore from his bosom** Him who was made in the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind." (John 1:18, RH July 9, 1895, par. 13)

And again, it was because Christ was brought forth from the Father, that He has the same nature as the Father.

So, the trinitarian believes Jesus' divinity is established because Jesus had no beginning, while the non-trinitarian believes Jesus' divinity is established because He was literally brought forth from the Father's

own substance. The problem with the premise underlying the trinitarian view, is that if Jesus had no beginning, then He cannot be a Son. And if Jesus is not really a Son, then God cannot really be His Father. And because Christ is said to be God's **"*only* Son,"** if Christ be not a Son at all, then neither is God a Father at all. Furthermore, what does this do to 1 John 4:9?

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.

If Jesus was not really begotten and He was not really a Son, it obscures the manifestation of the love of God toward us. The non-trinitarian avoids all these difficulties. He may fully believe that Jesus Christ had a beginning, that He was literally born of the Father and therefore may still be fully divine; and instead of obscuring this revelation of the love of God, it amplifies it, all while allowing the reader to take God at His Word -- so that when He says He has an only-begotten Son, the uneducated man or woman may place confidence in the Bible and have faith that God means exactly what He said. There is no secret teaching or mystical meaning to these words. They are **short, simple, and True**.

Advocates of the trinity doctrine say that non-trinitarians reject the divinity of Christ on the grounds that non-trinitarians believe Christ had a beginning. To the trinitarian, this makes Jesus a created being, since, in their minds, a divine being has no beginning. This is why, for 1300 years, since the time of Arius in the fourth century, that-trinitarians have been accusing those who believe Jesus was literally begotten, of believing that Jesus was created. The trinitarian believes a literally begotten Son would be a created being and this is the premise of their entire argument that non-trinitarians are rejecting the divinity of Christ. So, I want to ask the Lord's prophet, Ellen White, who Seventh-day Adventist trinitarians believe is an inspired messenger, what they make of this inspired comment.

Sister White says:
God so loved the world, that he gave his **only-begotten Son**,"—**not a son by creation**, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, **but a Son begotten** in the express image of the Father's person…" (ST May 30, 1895, par. 3)

In no uncertain manner, Sister White states of Christ, God's **"only begotten Son"**, that He is "**not a son by creation"**. What that means is, whatever you understand the word begotten to mean, it DOES NOT MEAN He was created. I stress again, **"the only-begotten Son"** was **"NOT a son by creation."** Jesus, the **only-begotten Son** is not a created being. Why? Why wasn't He a created being? He wasn't a created being because He was begotten! -- Something entirely different than creation! And this is what Sister What says, He was **"not a son by creation… but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person."** This brothers and sisters is exactly what it sounds like. Jesus was brought forth from the Father's own material long before the Earth was created and was **"in the express image of the Father's person**".

This is not some strange theological, impossible to comprehend mystery -- for we see this occur among humanity on a daily basis. Children are brought forth in the image of their parents and from their parents' own substance. Surely, mankind is a created race, but from Adam and Eve, every other human being that was brought into existence, was begotten in the image of their own parents.

Genesis 5:3

And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:" (Genesis 5:3)

Since the beginning, it has always been this way.

The Trinitarian, being forced to reject the notion that Christ was begotten, or brought forth from the father, is forced to apply a different meaning to the word begotten than what the word itself implies. Therefore, because Christ cannot have a beginning, they say the word begotten means unique. The Biblical Research Institute, the institution in charge of upholding and defending Seventh-day Adventist doctrine writes

They write:
"monogenēs," the Greek word for begotten, "could refer to the uniqueness of Christ as God and as God's means of revelation (cf. verse 14). If we accept the reading "only Son," His uniqueness as a revealer of the Father would be emphasized. Monogenēs also identifies Jesus as the only and unique means of salvation." (Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, Biblical Research Institute, July 2006.
https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/bible-nt-texts/john-316)

Adventist World also wrote:
"Only begotten" describes Jesus' unique role as the divine Son of God born into this world. No one else in the universe is like Him." (https://www.adventistworld.org/incomparable-christ/)

So instead of the word begotten meaning "born" or brought forth as the word itself is defined, they apply a new definition, saying it means "unique," in order to change the doctrine. Sister White warns of such an approach, saying.

Sister White says:
The truths most **plainly revealed** in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by **learned men**, who, with a **pretense of great wisdom**, teach that the Scriptures have **a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed**. **These men are false teachers.** (GC 598.3)

Ty Gibson - 3ABN Homecoming FALL CAMP MEETING 2018
How is it that He could be God in any kind of eternal sense that we comprehend diety and have not existed at some point in the remote past and then somehow been birthed, brought forth, actualized, call it whatever you want. Didn't exist, then He did. Well, what's been helpful for me, is to back up from the bark on the tree and pan out. I've been saying to myself for ten years now or so when in doubt in regard to Bible study, when in doubt pan out. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmnuhgFMaxY) (Time Point 25:00)

Now, think carefully about what Ty Gibson is saying. He is saying that when the Bible calls Jesus the Son of God, we are looking at the bark of the tree, and "when in doubt, pan out." What he is saying here, is that you cannot take these words at face value. He is casting doubt upon the Sonship of Christ. And implying that you cannot take one verse declaring Jesus to be God's Son as it reads, and because these words are blanketed in doubt, instead says we must back up from the tree and look at the big picture, so that we can come to the conclusion that God did not mean exactly what He said. Just like the serpent, he is creating doubt upon the plainest words of scripture. This has always been Satan's strategy. At Jesus' baptism, God spoke from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) But once in the wilderness of temptation after His baptism,

Sister White tells us that:

Satan flattered himself that he could lead Christ to doubt the words spoken from heaven at His baptism. And if he could tempt Him to **question His sonship** and **doubt the truth of the word spoken by His Father**, he would gain a great victory. (1SM 275.1)

It is because men like this would arise at the end of time, casting doubt upon Christ's Sonship and the Truthfulness of the plainest statements of God's word, that Ellen White warned**, "The Truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men,"** and when they **"teach that the Scriptures have a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed,"** we may know with a certainty, **"these men are false teachers."** (GC 598.3)

It is Lucifer, the enemy of soul's who takes issue with Christ being the literal Son of God.
Sister White says:
Well, Lucifer, he was striving; he had glory in the heavenly courts, but he was striving for Christ's place next to God. Next he wanted to be God, but he could not obtain that. **Christ was the only begotten Son of God**, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, **got up a warfare over the matter**, until he had to be thrust down to the earth. (Ms86-1910, August 21, 1910, par. 30)

Lucifer could not obtain the position of the Son of God, because **"Christ was the only begotten Son of God."** Christ was brought forth from the **"material"** of the Father's own substance. Therefore, Lucifer could not obtain **"the position of the Son of God,"** because Lucifer was not begotten of God. He was a created being -- and this is why, from that day to this, Lucifer, in waging war against the Father and Son, has endeavored for many millennia, to get God's people to adopt the belief, that Christ was not literally begotten of God. This subject of Christ's Sonship was such a controversy in Heaven, that the Father called before Him all the heavenly host, so that in their presence, He could make a public statement clearing up any confusion over the matter.

Sister White Says:
The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might **set forth the true position of <u>His Son</u>** and show the relation He sustained to <u>all created beings</u>. **The Son of God** shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, **self-existent One** encircled **both**. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of **the Deity**. Before the assembled inhabitants of **heaven the King declared that none but Christ, <u>the Only Begotten of God,</u>** <u>could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of **His will. The Son of Go**</u>d had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and **to Him, as well as to God**, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love. {PP 36.2}

In this celestial counsel convened **by the "command" of the Father**, for the purpose of "**setting forth the true position of His Son"**, declared in the hearing of all, long before the Earth was created, that Christ, was **"the only begotten of God."** In the most marvelous manner, the Father stated before all Heaven, that Christ was **His only begotten** Son. Even in spite of this inspired account of this momentous effort of God to set forth the truth concerning Christ's Sonship of the Father, some still teach thinks like this: **[Video]**

But what I find fascinating, is that in the creation of man -- God was to give the heavenly intelligences a marvelous illustration of this grand Truth.

Imagine yourself to be an angel in this heavenly counsel. And remember that Jesus created all the Heavenly angels. We read: "For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**" (Colossians 1:16)

Now think about this, if Jesus created all the heavenly angels and all other beings aside from God, then, who among them all, would've seen the Son be brought forth from the Father? The answer is none of them did! None of the angels or cherubim or seraphim or any of all the intelligences of Heaven would've witnessed the Son be brought forth from the Father, except the Father. This means then, that all the heavenly universe, had to accept that Christ was begotten of God, by faith -- since they didn't see it happen. And since they didn't see it happen, Lucifer and his angels were able to obscure this grand Truth. And they did.

Sister White Tells us:
Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. **This fact the angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God,** and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ. (Lt42-1910.3)

And still today, **Lucifer and His angels are obscuring this pivotal and most central doctrine of Christianity -- that God really did send His only-begotten Son, torn from His own bosom** and sent to Earth, to reveal the love He had for mankind.

The Biblical Research Institute, said:
In the case of the Godhead, however, the Son proceeded from the Father, not as a divine emanation or through natural birth, but to perform a work of creation and redemption… the father-son image cannot be literally applied to the divine Father-Son relationship within the Godhead. **The Son is not the natural, literal Son of the Father**. A natural child has a beginning, while within the Godhead the Son is eternal. **The term "Son" is used metaphorically when applied to the Godhead.** ("A Question of Sonship" by Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/godgodhead-jesus-christ/question-sonship)

Even in this statement, the author states **"a natural child has a beginning,"** which means, that **"the term "son" is used metaphorically when applied to the Godhead"** because, as he says **"within the Godhead the Son is eternal,"** meaning, without beginning and without end. And because, in the official teaching of the church, a being with a beginning is a created being, they deny the pre-existent Sonship of Christ, preferring instead to think of Christ's Sonship as a unique, metaphorical Sonship. Therefore, as you can see, the devil is using the Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Research institute, to further obscure from view, the Sonship of Christ -- and therefore, the divinity of Christ. But this is nothing new -- remember this controversy over the Sonship of Christ began in the courts of Heaven! And this brings us back to the Father's effort to set forth the true position of His Son at this heavenly council. But God does more than this. He gives them an example with the creation of man. Imagine the hosts of Heaven watching, as man was formed out of the dust of the ground, and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Now imagine all the heavenly host watching, as for the very first time, all of them together, witness one living being, brought forth from another living being, when Eve was brought forth from Adam's bosom.

Genesis 2:22-23

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

She, that is "Eve," was **"taken out of man"** meaning, she was brought forth from Adam's bosom, and what material did God use? He used a part of Adam, his own rib, from which to bring Eve forth from his bosom. As the heavenly universe watched this occur, I cannot imagine the impact that this demonstration must have had upon their minds, as they were witnessing for the very first time, a demonstration of that grand Truth, that Christ, the Son of God, was brought from the Father's bosom, from a part of Himself and in the Father's own image. And this mighty principle, of beings begotten in the image and likeness of their parents, using material from their parents own substance has been the law of reproduction for 6000 years since Adam "begat a son in his own likeness, after his image;" (Genesis 5:3) This principle of reproduction is even the law of the plant world:

Genesis 1:11
And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Even plants reproduce using their own substance, bringing forth new plants **"after his kind."** This is the law of nature. So, realize then, that our physiology, the very way human beings were physically designed, and the way the entire plant world was designed, and the way every living thing on this planet was designed, was designed in such a way, as to vindicate the Truthfulness of the Sonship of Christ in the Great Controversy in Heaven!

Romans 11:33
O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

It is amazing to comprehend, in spite of all the evidence, that some adamantly refuse to believe Jesus really is God's only-begotten Son -- all because they think, that if Jesus had a beginning, He couldn't really be divine. How important is it then, that we correctly understand that there is a difference between the meaning of the word begotten and creation! What child on the beach finishes building a sandcastle and says to his parents, 'look at what I've begotten?' Or what mother after giving birth says, 'look at what I have created?' A right understanding of definitions here, is paramount. But here's the main question I want to address in this video -- why is Jesus divine? Consider this statement from the pen of Sister White:

She Says:
To the Saviour's words, "Believest thou?" Martha responded, "Yea, Lord: I believe that **Thou art the Christ, the Son of God**, which should come into the world." Then Sister White elaborates on this confession saying: "**She confessed her faith in His divinity**, and her confidence that He was able to perform whatever it pleased Him to do. . (From Heaven with Love 355.1)

So, what was it Martha confessed? She confessed that Christ was **"the Son of God."** And Ellen White says this confession **"was a confession of His divinity"**. So, Jesus' **"divinity"** is established by His **"Sonship!"** But there is still more here. Notice that after Martha said, **"thou art the Christ, the Son of God"** she added **"which should come into the world."** Martha was not merely confessing her faith that Jesus was God's Son, but that He was God's Son, before He came into the world! So Martha was confessing her belief in the

pre-existent Sonship of Christ -- meaning, that she believed Jesus was God's Son, before He came into the world and this is why Ellen White said Martha **"had confessed her faith in His divinity."**

The reason this is important, is because the doctrine of the trinity does not allow one to believe Jesus was literally God's Son in Heaven. Trinitarian theology teaches that Jesus was not God's Son until He was born of Mary. In the Article 'Is Jesus God' Ministry Magazine, a Seventh-day Adventist publication wrote:

Ministry Magazine:
The title 'son' refers to His entry into time and does not deny at all His eternal origins. There are references in the Old Testament to 'Sonship' but these are always in anticipation of the incarnation. (J. R. Hoffman, Seventh-day Adventist Minister, Ministry Magazine article 'Is Jesus Jehovah God?' June 1982 page 24)
So follow me here -- because, if Martha's confession in Christ's divine Sonship of the Father prior to the creation of the world is Synonymous with a confession of Christ's divinity, this would mean, that denying the divine Sonship of Christ prior to the incarnation, would be Synonymous with denying the divinity of Christ! I'll say that again -- If confessing a belief that Jesus Christ was really God's literal Son, even before He became a human is synonymous with a belief in Jesus' divinity, that means, that to reject the literally begotten divine Sonship of Christ from the Father, is a rejection of His divinity. When trinitarians believe Jesus became a Son at the incarnation at His human birth, they deny His Sonship is of God and thereby, are guilty of rejecting His divinity which He received by virtue of His birth from the Father.

Ellen White wrote:
...a school-teacher there opposed the truth, and declared to the people that Seventh-day Adventists did not believe in the divinity of Christ. This man may not have known what our faith is on this point, but he was not left in ignorance. He was informed that **there is not a people on earth who hold more firmly to the truth of Christ's pre-existence than do Seventh-day Adventists.**" (Review and Herald, Dec 5, 1893.)

In answering the accusation that Seventh-day Adventists do not believe in the divinity of Christ, Sister White responded by affirming their belief in Christ's **"Pre-existence"** -- thereby showing that **"Christ divinity"** stems from His **"pre-existence"** -- from before the world was created. AS non-trinitarians Seventh-day Adventist were accused of rejecting Christ's Divinity to which James White responded:

Saying:
We do not deny the divinity of Christ. We delight in giving full credit to all those strong expressions of scripture which exalt the Son of God. (James White, Review and Herald, June 6, 1871)

Here we see James White also affirms His belief in the **"divinity of Christ"** by affirming His **"Sonship"**

How far than the corporate body has fallen today by adopting a view early Adventist labored so diligently to refute and to now take the position that denies the divinity of Christ by denying His preexistent Sonship.

Now the trinitarian may say, I believe in Jesus' pre-existence. And this may be true, but they still deny His Sonship comes from His pre-existence -- which is just a more deceptive form of the same error.

Sister White tells us:
But while God's Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding **His pre-existence**. The Word existed as a divine being, **even as the eternal Son of God**, in union and oneness with His Father. (1SM 247.2)

And remember this statement declaring Christ to be **"the eternal Son of God"** is speaking of His **"Sonship"** during **"His pre-existence".** Before His incarnation, Christ was the divine Son of God even in His pre-existence. A preexistent Sonship, and this is what trinitarians fervently deny.

In his book "The Sonship of Christ" Ty Gibson states that "when Jesus comes into the world, that's the reference point for the Sonship of Christ"

Here is another example that links Christ's Sonship with His divinity.

Sister White says:
In the closing events of the crucifixion day, new witness was borne to Christ's divinity. When the Saviour's dying cry had been uttered, another voice was heard, saying, **"Truly this was the Son of God."** (Matthew 27:54. From Heaven with Love 512.4)

Here is yet another example, of the fact, that acknowledging the **"Sonship"** of Christ is to acknowledge His **"divinity"**. So then, when the Seventh-day Adventist church states **"The Son is not the natural, literal Son of the Father"** and that **"The term "Son" is used metaphorically when applied to the Godhead,"** this is there for a denial of the divinity of Christ. By thinking and teaching that Christ is only metaphorically a son, it allows the Seventh-day Adventist church to call Jesus the Son, while at the same time, denying His Sonship is of the Father and thereby, to deny His divinity. ("A Question of Sonship" by Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/godgodhead-jesus-christ/question-sonship)

Here is yet another example that links Jesus divinity with His Sonship. In the Desire of Ages page 536, we read of Jesus:

Sister White says:
"He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth." His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, divinity flashes through humanity. In His face, which is lighted up by the glory of God, the people see the assurance of His power. Every eye is fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is bent to catch the slightest sound. With intense and painful interest **all wait for the test of Christ's divinity**, the evidence that is to substantiate **His claim to be the Son of God,** or to extinguish the hope forever." (DA 536.2)

The resurrection of Lazarus is to be the **"test of Christ's divinity."** So, if Lazarus is indeed resurrected from the dead, it would be **"the evidence that is to substantiate His claim to be the Son of God."** So again, Sister White shows us, that a belief in the Sonship of Christ is synonymous with a belief in His divinity, since to acknowledge one, is to acknowledge the other. It is Biblically impossible therefore, to deny the Sonship of Christ, such as claiming His Sonship is just a metaphor and still hold the view that Christ is divine. Since it is by virtue of His pre-existent Sonship from the Father that Jesus is divine, therefor the trinitarian view that denies this Sonship, actually denies His divinity, while still professing to believe in it.

Also, in the Desire of Ages we read concerning Christ,

Sister White says:
The sea had known His voice, and had obeyed His command. Disease and death had recognized His authority, and had yielded to Him their prey. The sun had known Him, and at the sight of His dying anguish, had hidden

its face of light. The rocks had known Him, and had shivered into fragments at His cry. Inanimate nature had known Christ, and had **borne witness to His divinity**. But the priests and rulers of Israel knew not **the Son of God.** (DA 770.4)

Once again, the "divinity" of Christ and the **"Sonship"** of Christ are tied together. The elements of inanimate nature bore witness to His **"divinity"**, and by contrast, showing what it meant to reject bearing witness to His **"divinity"**, we read **"the priests and rulers of Israel knew not the Son of God,"** and there is nothing new under the sun. Even today in 2020, the priests and rulers of modern spiritual Israel know not the Son of God. They profess to be the stewards of the oracles of God and keep His commandments, but they know Him not. They say His Sonship is but a metaphor and thereby deny the divinity of the only begotten Son of God.

The day will come when

As Sister White has warned us:
All will understand that they have erred from the truth by receiving the misinterpretations and bewitching lies of Satan instead of "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." They read the announcement, "Thou, O man, hast chosen to stand under the banner of the great rebel, Satan, and in so doing thou hast destroyed thyself." Whatever may have been the endowment of talent, whatever may have been the supposed wisdom, the rejecter of truth has then no ability to turn unto God. The door is shut, as was the door of the ark in Noah's day.

The great men of earth will then understand that they have surrendered mind and heart to ensnaring philosophy which pleased the carnal heart. Hope and grace and every inducement had been held out by One who loved them, and gave His life for them, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life; but they refused the love of God. Their lofty opinions, their human reasonings, were extolled; they declared themselves sufficient in themselves to understand divine mysteries, and they thought their own powers of discrimination were strong enough to discern truth for themselves. They fell an easy prey to Satan's subtlety, for he presented before them specious errors in human philosophy, which has an infatuation for human minds. They turned from the Source of all wisdom, and worshipped intellect. The message and the messengers of God were criticized and discarded as beneath their human, lofty ideas. The invitations of mercy were made a jest, and **they denied the divinity of Jesus Christ, and derided the idea of His preexistence before He assumed human nature**. But the tattered shreds of human reasoning will be found to be only as ropes of sand in the great day of God." (ST August 30, 1910, par. 1-ST August 30, 1910, par. 3)

Brothers and sisters, this is exactly what is happening today. The great theologians and priests and leaders and the rulers of Spiritual modern Israel are denying the pre-existent Sonship of Christ before He assumed human nature and are thereby denying the divinity of Christ -- the very crime of which they accuse those who reject the trinity doctrine today. This is one example that teaches us, following the traditions and teachings of men or of any denomination, in almost every case, is a fatal mistake that may cost us our eternal salvation.

Sister White tells us:
The Saviour never denied His mission or His relation to the Father. He could remain silent to personal insult, **but He ever spoke plainly and decidedly when His work or Sonship to God was called in question.** (SJ 116.2)

In the day of reckoning, I have no doubt the words spoken from the Father's lips will echo through their minds like thunder, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** (2 Peter 1:17) Then those who

have rejected these words, will be called to give an account of their reason for rejecting them. But, by that time, it will be far too late to repent; far too late to study and seek God for the Truth with prayer and fasting; and I recognize many of the leaders, many of the teachers within the Seventh-day Adventist church are well meaning and sincere. This is not a question of motive; **this is a question of <u>Truth</u>.** And I realize, being genuine, many of them may yet, still, come to an understanding of this Truth that is the foundation of the Christian's faith, which is why I am bringing this information before you now --- because it is not yet too late -- and I dare not remain silent, but must like my Savior, speak plainly and decidedly when His Sonship and therefore His divinity, is called into question.