



The Doctrine of Jesus

WHO IS JESUS?

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. 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, *Mere Christianity*

CHRISTIANITY IS BUILT UPON THE _____ OF JESUS.

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi.

And on the way He asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

And they told Him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

And He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered Him, "You are the Christ."

—Mark 8:27-29; cf. Matt. 16:13-16; Luke 9:18-20

Who do people today say that Jesus is?

"The first Jesus was a rabbi who wandered the shores of northern Galilee many centuries ago. ...This historical Jesus has been lost, however, swept away by history. Millions of people worship another Jesus, however, who never existed.... This is the Jesus built up over thousands of years by theologians and other scholars. ...These two versions of Jesus...hold a tragic aspect for me, because I blame them for stealing something precious: the [third] Jesus who taught his followers how to reach God-consciousness. ...Jesus intended to save the world by showing others the path to God-consciousness."

—Deepak Chopra, *The Third Jesus*

It would require much exotic calculation, however, to deny that the single most powerful figure—not merely in these two millennia but in all history—has been Jesus of Nazareth. ...It is an astonishing conclusion in light of the fact that Jesus was a man who lived a short life in a rural backwater of the Roman Empire, who died in agony as a convicted criminal, and who may never have intended so much as a small portion of the effects worked in his name.

—Time Magazine, December 6, 1999

Who do you say that Jesus is?

The early church developed an acronym (Greek, *ichthus*, fish) to teach His identity: He is Jesus-Christ-God's Son-Savior.



JESUS – A REAL, HISTORICAL, PHYSICAL HUMAN BEING.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life. —1 John 1:1

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. —Hebrews 2:17

CHRIST – THE ANOINTED ONE, FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

- Jesus is the _____ (Deut. 18:18-19).
- Jesus is the _____ (Psalm 110; Isaiah 53).
- Jesus is the _____ (Is. 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14).

GOD’S SON – FULLY DIVINE, GOD IN THE FLESH, GOD WITH US.

- Jesus is _____ God (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 8:58; 20:28; Rom 9:5; Col. 2:9; Titus 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20).
- Jesus is _____ as God (Matt. 2:2, 8:2, 9:18, 14:32-33, 15:25, 28:9; Mark 5:6; Luke 24:52; John 9:38; Heb. 1:6).
- Jesus does all that _____ does (Mark 2:5-10; John 5:16-27).

All creatures in the universe will bow before Jesus and confess Him as Lord (Phil. 2:9-11; cf. Isaiah 45:23)!

SAVIOR – “JEHOVAH SAVES,” DELIVERER FROM SIN & DEATH.

GOD’S CHARACTER

OUR PROBLEM

GOD’S SOLUTION

To dispel the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits, and treated with the most extreme punishments, some people, popularly known as Christians, whose disgraceful activities were notorious. The originator of that name, Christus, had been executed when Tiberius was Emperor, by order of the procurator Pontius Pilatus.
—Tacitus (AD 115-120)

Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and will be so forever. —Wayne Grudem

As a rule, the Semitic languages, including Hebrew, use the construct chain “son of” to make up for a lack of adjectives. Hence, the use of “son of X” to denote the member of a group of a class of beings represents a fundamental Semitic construct, central to all Semitic grammar. The same expression appears in Arabic where abn or “son” appears in the compound phrase “son of man” meaning “man, human being.”
—Hans Wehr Dictionary of Arabic

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.
—Napoleon Bonaparte

Clearly, the cross is what separates the Christ of Christianity from every other Jesus.
—Kenneth Woodward