

JESUS CHRIST

WHO IS HE? *LORD, LIAR OR LUNATIC*

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying this 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 one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sorts of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic-on a 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 up 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*, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1960, pp. 40-41.

WHY IS JESUS CHRIST SO CONTROVERSIAL?

- JOHN 14:6 – “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE GOD?

- John 8:58
- John 10:30

OTHER CONTROVERSIES

- Was Jesus born to a virgin?
- Does the Old Testament contain prophecy regarding Jesus?
- Did Jesus perform miracles?
- Did Jesus live a sinless life
- Did Jesus actually die on the cross?
- Did Jesus actually rise from the dead?
- After being resurrected, did Jesus really appear to His disciples and others?
- Is Jesus really alive in heaven today?
- Is Jesus coming back?
- Is the Bible true?

Why do some people say Yes to all these questions while others say NO, or are not sure?

- Are the answers a matter of personal opinion or is there such thing as objective truth?
- Are answers to these questions mainly based on cultural factors such as location of upbringing? Parents? Schooling? Church membership?
- If the above questions can be answered in the affirmative, what does that say about world systems and ideas that contradict or deny these claims?
- Do your answers describe your world view and life?

As a Christian, what are our responsibilities to live for Jesus?

- Do we need to believe all these claims?
- Do we need to be able to defend these claims?
- How much does faith play a role in our beliefs?
- What should we be telling others?

John 8

Before Abraham Was, I AM

⁴⁸ Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. ⁵¹Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

⁵² Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' ⁵³Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your ^[13] God. ⁵⁵Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, ^[14] going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 10

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

²² Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. ²³ And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ^[2] ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰I and My Father are one."

Renewed Efforts to Stone Jesus

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"?' ^[3] ³⁵If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe ^[4] that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." ³⁹Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.