

FIRST MONTH

Who was Jesus Christ, and what makes Him unique among all men?

Week One: The claims Christ made about Himself, and the implications of those claims. (Who did Jesus say He was, and why is it important?)

- I. Jesus made very specific and direct claims concerning His own Deity (that He was “God in the flesh”).
 - a. Read John 8: 51 – 59. In this passage Jesus was speaking to some Jews who were starting to believe in Him. Some Jewish religious leaders, (Pharisees) came along to challenge Him.
 - i. During Jesus’s discussion with these men, He makes one very specific claim about Himself. What did He say, and what did it mean to the Jews? (see John 8: 56 – 58)
 - ii. How did His enemies respond to the claim Christ made? (see John 8: 59).
 - b. Read John 14: 1 - 9. Who was Jesus talking to in this passage?
 - i. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 14: 6 – 7? Was He leaving the door open for many ways to a relationship with God?
 - ii. What was Jesus’ response to Philip’s question in John 14: 8 – 9?
 - iii. What did Jesus mean by His two bold statements in verses 7 and 9?
 - c. Read Matthew 28: 18 - 20. In Jesus’s last words to His “Disciples”, He gives them a command, to “go and make disciples of all nations”. How did Jesus start off this command? What was the basis of Christ’s command? (Note: a “disciple” was / is a close follower, who follows the teaching of a leader and submits their life to those teachings.)
- II. Conclusion: Jesus’ distinct claims to being “God” in the flesh really eliminates the popular theory in our society today that He was a great moral teacher, or a wonderful religious leader who went around speaking profound truth. Actually, the claims that Christ made about Himself can only draw the intellectually honest person to one of three conclusions: Christ was either a very slick liar, (who fooled a lot of people); or someone who was completely out of touch with reality; or He was who He said He was, the Lord of the Universe. *Well known author C.S. Lewis (who himself set out to disprove Christianity, and after seeing the historical evidence of the life, death, & resurrection of Christ, gave his heart to Jesus Christ) puts it this way: “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 of a man who thinks he 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.” (A Ready Defense; Josh McDowell. p. 241-242). Which of these three choices seems the most logical to you? Who do you say that Christ is; Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?

III. APPLICATION: If Jesus Christ is actually who He said He is, then how does that impact my personal faith? How does this Truth impact the way I see my world? How does this impact the way I relate to & treat other people?

IV. MEMORY VERSES: John 14: 6; John 14: 9.