

Who Is Jesus?

One day, as Jesus was walking and talking with His disciples, He asked them a thought-provoking question. He asked them who people thought that He was. Some people thought He was Jeremiah; some thought He was Elijah, some thought He was John the Baptist. Then Jesus turned the conversation and made it very personal. He asked, "But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15) That's the question of all time. It is a question that everyone must consider. Who is Jesus? Peter answered correctly when he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16) The following are some basic Bible teachings about Jesus and Who He is:

1. Jesus is preexistent.

Simply put, this means that Jesus had no beginning. Several verses speak to this fact. Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2 are clear prophecies of Jesus Christ and both refer to Him as "everlasting." John 1:1 refers to Christ as being present in the beginning. John 17:5 talks about Christ's glory before the world existed. Colossians 1:16-17 speak of Christ's action in creation. I Peter 1:20 tells of God's plan for Christ before the world began.

2. Jesus is 100% God.

There are several things about Jesus that prove that He is Deity. First, He possesses characteristics of being God. Jesus is eternal. Hebrews 1:8 says that Jesus' throne is for ever and ever. Jesus is all-powerful. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Jesus knows everything. In both John 16:30 and 21:17, different people said of Jesus, "thou knowest all things." Jesus is everywhere present. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus promised to be with His disciples always. Jesus does not change. Hebrews 13:8 says of Jesus that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Second, Jesus does things that only God can do. He creates out of nothing and sustains His creation. Several Scripture passages speak to this: John 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17, and Hebrews 1:3.

Third, He has special privileges that only God has. Jesus can forgive sin. (Luke 5:20) He will raise the dead at the final resurrection. (John 5:25-29) Jesus will judge all living things including believers (II Corinthians 5:20), nonbelievers (II Timothy 4:1), Satan (Genesis 3:15), and the entire world (Acts 17:31).

Fourth, He simply declared Himself to be God. In John 10:24-42 Jesus was asked directly if He were the Christ or not. In no uncertain terms, He affirmed that He is. The crowd understood His claim and even picked up stones to stone Him on the spot.

3. Jesus is 100% man.

Though Jesus is 100% God, He is also at the same time 100% man. It was absolutely necessary that Jesus come to earth as a man so that He could die and pay the penalty for our sin. He exhibited the characteristics of humanity: physical growth (Luke 2:52), a physical body (Matthew 26:12), flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14), experiencing temptation (Matthew

4:1), hunger (Matthew 4:2), thirst (John 4:7), tiredness (John 4:7), sleep (Matthew 8:24), sorrow (John 11:35), bleeding (John 19:34), and death (Matthew 27:50).

Though Jesus was completely man, His birth was like no other. His mission was to die and pay the penalty for our sin. In order for Him to be able to do that, He needed to be sinless. Romans 5:12 teaches that the curse of sin is passed through the man. Therefore, Jesus had to be born without the influence of any human man. Jesus, then, was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20)

4. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice.

Old Testament priests would have to make daily sacrifices to cover the sins of the people. The reason that sacrifices were made on a daily basis is that “it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4) Later in verse 11, God commented, “And every standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” The daily sacrifices of animals could only cover the people’s sin, but it could not take it away.

Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 10:12, speaking of Jesus, says, “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sin for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” Jesus only had to offer one sacrifice because He was perfectly sinless. He offered one sacrifice for ever. Then He sat down, showing us that His work was done. His final words just before He died were, “It is finished.” (John 19:30)

5. Jesus is alive!

Though Jesus did physically die, and though He was buried for three days, He rose again. He lives today. After He rose from the dead, He appeared bodily to hundreds of people. (I Corinthians 15:3-6) He rose again to defeat death. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25) Eternal life is available in Him because he defeated death. Without the resurrection of Christ, we have no hope for a future resurrection, our faith is vain. (I Corinthians 15:17-19)

6. Jesus is the one mediator.

Paul said to Timothy in I Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” Before Christ died, there was a physical veil between God’s presence and man. Only the high priest could go in to God’s presence once a year. He would take the needs of the people to God.

At the moment of Christ’s death, the physical veil was supernaturally torn from top to bottom, symbolizing that now any man had direct access to God through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 27:51) It is now unnecessary to go through any person to get access to God. Every person can have direct access to God through Jesus Christ.

7. He is the Savior.

Jesus came to save us. The question is, “From what did He come to save us?” He came to save us from the penalty of our sin. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Every person is a sinner. The penalty for that sin is death (Romans

6:23), eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. But God wants us to be with Him, so He made a way for us to come to Him. Jesus came to pay the price; He did that when He died. He defeated death when He rose again, so that “whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” He alone can save us from our sin.