

Who is Jesus, Anyway?

“Who is this Jesus guy?” We shouldn’t be troubled by the question, but welcome it with open arms. If the question comes from an honest heart, it should excite us, but we should have a deep and reasoned answer.

Some of the problems we face are based on cultural assumptions about the answer to questions. Perhaps we should have a better grasp on the assumptions that are commonly made by people who are more cultural than scriptural.

To many, Jesus was merely a man who had some good ideas about how people should treat each other so they can get along better. To others, Jesus was a master psychologist who understood people and gave them a good view of the psychology of themselves and family and friends. To yet others, Jesus was a “divine” human (a cut above regular human) but not deity (God in the flesh).

Sadly, to some, Jesus was a mean-spirited, judgmental man who was a self-righteous bigot! Those who believe that, see Jesus as simply a man who made too many rules that rob others of their fun and pleasure. After all, who does he (or “He”) think he (or “He”) is to tell others how to live their lives? Who gave him or (“Him”) the right to make rules for others?

The crux of the matter is rather simple – either Jesus is deity or He is not! *That* is the question of the ages. If Jesus was merely a man, and not the only begotten Son of God, then He was a usurper who had no right to make rules for others. Josh McDowell’s point comes rushing to the forefront, “Jesus is a LIAR, or a LUNATIC, or He is LORD!”

If Jesus was *not* the actual Son of God, and Emmanuel (which means “God with us”), then He was a LIAR for claiming to be so. If Jesus *thought* He was the Son of God, but really wasn’t, then He was a lunatic. OR... Jesus was Lord, deity, the Son of God, God with us, Savior and King of Kings. And if He is deity, then He actually did die on the cross, for every man and woman alive – to take the guilt of their sins upon Himself!

Thousands of former *non*-believers are now believers, including scientists, philosophers, historians, archeologists and biologists.

Paul tells us that God has given us ample evidence of His own existence through the things He made (Romans 1:18-23). And Luke tells us that God has given us evidence that Jesus is who He said He was by the miracles He performed and by His resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:22-36). Many of us personally know men of science who are also men of faith.

The primary questions that linger are simply, “Do you accept the evidence that Jesus really is deity, God in the flesh, King of kings, Lord of lords and God with us?” and “Are you able to explain who He is, when someone asks you that important question?”

As 1 Peter 3:15 states, “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

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