

Is Jesus Really God?

Scriptures used: [Matt: 16:13-17 \(NIV\)](#), [John 7:16-17 \(NIV\)](#) and [10:30-33 \(NIV\)](#), [John 19:33-35 \(NLT\)](#), [Acts 1:8 \(NLT\)](#), [1 Cor. 15:3-8 \(NLT\)](#), [Gal. 1:11-13 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon encourages us on whatever stage of our personal faith journeys, to “lean in” for clarity about why we believe what we believe. Our message today focuses on, “Is Jesus Really God?” Where we may struggle with doubt, we are reminded to continue to listen with open doubt as opposed to closed doubt as he helped us examine scriptures that attest to Christ’s claim as deity, as God.

KEY POINTS

1. **What did they see?** The New Testament stands as a powerful and compelling witness that the early church found the claim that Jesus was God to be inescapable. The disciples Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Apostle Paul gave their accounts of being present firsthand to see His crucifixion and Resurrection. It wasn’t necessarily easy for them to believe this; they had to overcome the same doubts that we have. Nevertheless, the reality of Jesus’ resurrection and claim to divinity was so compelling that those in the early church were willing to sacrifice, suffer, and die for this conviction. Well known defender of the faith, C.S. Lewis made a statement worthy of strong consideration on His claims as Lord and God: Jesus was a lunatic, a liar, or Lord.
2. **What has the divinity of Jesus meant to the world?**
 - a. **The facts of Christian influence.** Pastor shared that virtually all of Western culture has been shaped and impacted by the Christian faith. The entire system of higher education (for example, see the charters of Harvard, Duke, Stanford, etc.), major justice movements like the abolition movement, and the core of our healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals and orphanages, were founded and anchored on the principles Christ lived and taught.
 - b. **The divinity of Jesus continues to offer hope for the transformation of individual lives.** For example, Lee Strobel was an investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune when he entered into what he intended to be a two week project to debunk Christianity. Instead, after two years of intense, unapologetic effort to discredit Christ and His crucifixion, he became a devout believer, and his life was radically changed. He writes about this journey in the book, “The Case for Christ.”
3. **What do you see? What do you say?**
 - a. As you reflect on the idea of Jesus as Lord and God, Pastor Hurmon asks the same question of the disciples to you and me, “Who do you say I am?” If this is still a question you are seeking to answer, that’s more than all right. As with any strong and healthy relationship, it takes time to build. Jesus is in it for the long term, for your lifetime.
 - b. Review your own journey of how Jesus is making Himself known to you. How is He or has He shown Himself personally to you?
 - c. Consider that your story, your journey, is validation to tell of the value of your faith to others, to make Him known to others. You don’t need to sound like or use words like anyone but yourself, faith comes by hearing the testimonies of what He’s done and continues to do in your life.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is your current understanding of who Jesus is? What attracts you to Jesus? What causes you concern? Are the things you like or dislike about Jesus more culturally influenced, or do they arise out of the New Testament as the record of Jesus’ words and actions? Who sparked an interest in you to know more about Jesus?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - God is not offended or bothered by our questions. When we are open to His leading by continuing to convene, to be together, learn, and develop in our faith individually and collectively, He is faithful to reveal Himself to us. Consider the Scriptures listed at the beginning of these study notes. What is a next step for you in getting to know Jesus better? If you are still figuring out what you believe, how will you explore the unique claims of Jesus? If you believe that Jesus is God, how can you come to know Him and follow Him better?
- 3) **DO** - Gentle reminder to plan for the Be Rich to Others service day on November 12, 2023 (no in-person Gatherings that day; we will be serving together!). Expect to experience His Glory and Grace as we love, pray, serve, and give together.