

# Is Jesus God? No!

## Read at your own risk

It appears heretical, outrageous, false doctrine, unbiblical and even anti-Christian.

Why such a reaction by those who claim to believe the Bible and claim to understand what Christianity is all about?

Believe it or not, there is really great confusion about most traditional Christian doctrines and most church goers are especially ignorant of the real answer to the question. Again the question is, "is Jesus God?" The correct answer is still "no."

A short story: Several years ago we were going to a moderately sized evangelical Baptist church in Abbotsford, B.C. We were attending a weekend conference sponsored by a very large and well respected Christian organization. At the end of the final meeting, questions were being taken from the audience. A lady stood up and said, "Could you please tell me when Jesus goes back to being God only and is no longer also man?" The speaker, much to my amazement answered by saying, "I am not sure of the answer to that question. I have often wondered the same thing myself." I won't embarrass him by giving his name.

I have taken the time to read hundreds of statements of faith on various church websites, and it is easy to understand why there is confusion about the true nature of the Lord Jesus.

Are you beginning to get a hint that we have a problem here? If a world renowned Christian speaker is confused, what hope is there for the average man and woman in the pew? The answer to the question, "is Jesus God?" is still "no!"

The problem is not the answer, but the real problem is the question. The real question should be, "who is the Lord Jesus Christ?"

If the answer to our original question is "yes", what possible hope does a man have for ever knowing God, being in His presence, having a relationship, having

sins forgiven, or even hoping to touch God in prayer. How can a holy God tolerate a sinful and unrighteous man in His presence?

In Exodus 33:20 God says to Moses, *"...no man can see me and live."* If Jesus is God, what hope can mankind have, other than be a grease spot in His presence? Are you beginning to see that there is really more going on here?

Consider the following passages:

John 1:14

*14 "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Heb 1:3a

*1 "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature....."*

John 14:9

*"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Remember the words of the hymn we sing at Christmas which says, "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity...born as man with men to dwell; Jesus our Emanuel?"

Jesus veils, yet reveals the presence and the person of the Holy God, the One who *"dwells in unapproachable light."* How does the Lord Jesus Christ make God approachable? The real barrier (veil) into the holy place has been torn top to bottom; from heaven to earth. The true tabernacle of God is *"with men."*

1 Tim 3:16

*"By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:  
He who was revealed in the flesh,  
Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Taken up in glory."*

It appears that we live on a “visited planet”, as C. S. Lewis has said. Someone else has said that in order not to destroy the very people to whom God wanted to reveal Himself and to save, that He simply, “dressed up in a people-suit.”

2 Cor 5:19

*19 “namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

Both God and man required a “mister in between.” These words are found in a popular Bing Crosby song of the 1940s

John 1:18

*“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”*

Now we are beginning to understand the answer to the right question. “Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?” Even the beloved disciple John said, “No man has seen God at any time.” How is it then that the Lord Jesus can reveal God and at the same time as He is God prevent man from being obliterated in God’s presence?

Paul the Apostle wrote that, Phil 2:6-7

*“...although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”*

The writer to the Hebrews says, Heb 2:14

*“14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death...”*

In order to pay the just penalty for sin, death was required. There was now the “seed of the woman” (Genesis 3:15), a genuine human being who is the only one born outside of the “slave-market of sin”. This one came to set free mankind and to redeem (to buy out of the slave market) from sin. According to Paul, this perfect man is a new Adam, a last Adam, who is now the head of a new race of redeemed men.

An early doctrinal confession recorded by Paul makes the issue clear. We have begun to see why. 1 Tim 2:5-6

*"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all..."*

## Jesus is not God, but He is the God/Man.

He is Man's perfect God, and God's perfect man. He is undiminished deity and true humanity united in one person forever. Historically, the three roles given the Messiah by the Old Testaments prophets were that of prophet, priest, and king. All those roles are to be played by a man; A very special man indeed. The one born of a virgin and without sin would also be Emmanuel (God with us).

We have in Him "a prophet greater than Moses", a "priest according to the order of Melchizedek", and a King who is "great David's greater son." Only a man could fulfill these roles. And above all, the suffering servant was to be a **man** of sorrows.

In order to be the "*seed of the woman*", to "live forever as our intercessor", to be the head of a "new race of redeemed people", to shield us from God's holy presence, to be "*able to sympathize with our weaknesses*", to pay sin's death penalty which every man owes, to give us the "*New Covenant in His blood*," God had to become "the man Christ Jesus." He is not just God, nor is He just man. He is the unique one who is in union with the Godhead for all eternity. He is not God diminished, nor is He man exalted. He is perfectly and mysteriously both God and man.

He was "*tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.*" We can know that He knows and understands. He did not surrender His humanity at His resurrection. There is a man in heaven, on our behalf. This "*same Jesus*" is coming back.

John 2:19-22

19 *"Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken."*

Luke 24:39-43

*39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 While they still could not believe He said to them, "Have you anything to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them.*

Because God did "so love the world", He took what seems like that **awful risk**, when Jesus "emptied Himself" endured the death of the cross, so we may voluntarily, as the redeemed, bow our knees to the Father, and be reconciled to God. He is forever, the **God/man** savior.

In one very real sense, His humiliation, His humbling, is still very much the case because He is still "one of us" forever. He remains the "man of sorrows, acquainted with grief." It is also said of this child of Mary, in Revelation 12:5-6: "And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne." The Lord Jesus Christ is the God-Man on our behalf for all eternity.

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