



WHO IS JESUS?

- ◆ A. An apostle's description:
John 1:14-18
 1. Full of grace and truth.
 2. What they saw in Jesus.




WHO IS JESUS?

- ◆ B. The early Church's description:
Colossians 1:15-20
 1. Image/likeness of God.
 2. Agent (means of) and sustainer of creation.



WHO IS JESUS?

3. Head of the church.
4. Agent of reconciliation.
5. God.




WHO IS JESUS?

◆C. Jesus' self-description

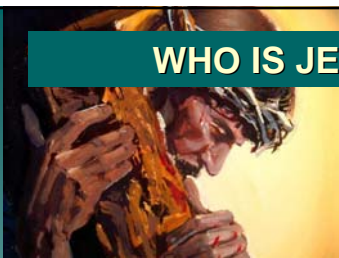
(from John Stott, Basic Christianity)

1. Self-centered teaching.
2. Direct claims.



WHO IS JESUS?

3. Indirect claims.
4. Miracles.



WHO IS JESUS?

◆D. Description of those opposing Him.



THE INCARNATION

A. Definition of Incarnation:
The union of deity and humanity in the person of Jesus.



THE INCARNATION

- ◆ B. Council of Chalcedon in AD 451.
1. It stated that Jesus was fully human and fully divine.
 2. The early church had not attempted to explain it, they just preached it.
 3. Chalcedon merely reaffirmed this fact without interpreting it.



THE INCARNATION

- ◆ C. Three heresies regarding Christ
1. Ebionites
Jesus is really just a very good human with a divine "glow". God chose him to be the Messiah. He was not fully divine.



THE INCARNATION

2. Docetists

Jesus is really God and was disguised in human clothes or shell for 33 years. He is not fully human.



THE INCARNATION

3. Nestorians

Jesus is a half-breed and schizophrenic. There are two separate natures. Sometimes he is human (and cries). Other times he is divine (and does a miracle).



THE INCARNATION

4. Athanasius

Jesus is made of the same stuff we are. Yet we see God perfectly in Jesus.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

A. The consequences of sin:

1. Alienation from God.
2. Bondage to self.
3. Conflict with others.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

◆ B. Salvation liberates us from them all

1. Alienation – reconciled through Christ's death.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

2. Bondage – freedom through the gift of the Spirit.
3. Conflict – community through Christ and the church.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

◆ C. Reconciliation

1. Reconciliation comes from God.
2. He is the author and initiator of the whole idea.
3. Reconciliation is "an action by which two conflicting parts are made as one."

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

◆ D. The Centrality of the Cross

1. O.T. religion was sacrificial.
 - a. All good Jews knew "the life of the flesh is in the blood" and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- b. These O.T. sacrifices foreshadowed the sacrifice of Christ.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- 2. It was this "*must*" / "*should*" laid on Him by scripture as revealing the father's will which reoccurred in His teaching.
- 3. The writers of the four gospels devote a huge amount of space to Christ's last week and death in comparison to the rest of His life.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- 4. The Apostle Paul reminds readers often of the Cross.
- 5. The church for 2000 years has recognized the Cross as central.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- ◆ E. The Meaning of the Cross
 - 1. He died for our sins.
 - a. Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.
 - b. Christ died for our sins – once for all.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- ◆ c. He appeared to take away sins.
 - d. He suffered the consequences of our sins
 - He became our scapegoat, our substitute.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND THE SALVATION OF CHRIST

- ◆ 2. Christ died as our example:
 - 1 Peter 2: 18-25
 - a. Physical suffering.
 - b. Humiliation.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

- ◆ A. Evidences:
 - 1. The empty tomb.
 - 2. Post-resurrection appearances.
 - 3. The angelic appearances.
 - 4. The transformed apostles.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

- ◆ B. Implications of Christ's Resurrection:
 1. It confirmed the truthfulness of Christ's teaching.
 2. It affirmed the Incarnation.

IMBESHOTS

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

3. It provided the promise of resurrection for believers.
4. It points us to the power available to the believer in the present life.

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THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

C. Resurrection Power

1. It does not rely on any power source.
2. God's power makes no noise.

IMBESHOTS

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

3. Resurrection power brings life when things seem barren and dead.
4. Nothing can stop resurrection power.

IMESHOTS

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

HIS CLAIMS ARE FALSE
Two alternatives

He knew his claims were false
He did not know his claims were false

He made a deliberate misrepresentation
He was sincerely deluded

HE WAS A LIAR *HE WAS A FOOL*

He was a lunatic, since he died for his claims

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

HIS CLAIMS ARE TRUE
One option

HE IS GOD
Two alternatives

YOU MUST ACCEPT HIM

YOU MUST REJECT HIM

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

Key Conclusion:

Christians are people who have responded to what God has done to forgive us through Jesus Christ.

"For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all." 1 Timothy 2:5-6

C.S. Lewis

"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 a level with the man who says he is 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 he is 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 with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."
