

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST PART 4

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

PART 2B – DIVINE SON OF GOD

B. JESUS – LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD?

If we are to accept Him, we have to accept **ALL OF HIM** and everything He said about Himself.

*"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 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.***

– C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

1. He Is A Liar

"If Jesus knew he was not God, then he was lying. But if he was a liar, then he was also a hypocrite; he told others to be honest, whatever the cost. More than that, he would have been a demon, because he deliberately told others to forsake their own religious beliefs and trust him for their eternal destiny. If Jesus knew his claims to be false, we would have to conclude that he was unspeakably evil." – Josh & Sean McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict

This view of Jesus doesn't coincide with what we know either of Him or the effects of His life and teachings.

Wherever Jesus has been proclaimed, lives have been changed for the good, nations have changed for the better, thieves are made honest, alcoholics are cured, hateful individuals become channels of love, unjust persons become just.

2. He Is A Lunatic

"Was Jesus deluded about His greatness, a paranoid, an unintentional deceiver, a schizophrenic?

Again, the skill and depth of His teachings support the case only for His total mental soundness. If only we were as sane as He!"

– Clark H. Pinnock, Canadian theologian & apologist

It was impossible for Jesus to have been crazy. No one even comes close to the clearness and sharpness of His mind.



3. He Is Lord

In this final part of our study, we have seen that Jesus could not have been a liar or lunatic, the only option we have left is to acknowledge that He is indeed Lord.

It is our hope and prayer in the Follower's Course that we don't just learn about who Jesus is, but truly accept the truth of who He is and surrender our hearts to Him!

MATTHEW 16:

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

"This passage represents the climax of Jesus' teaching ministry. It was, in effect, the apostles' final examination, consisting of but one question, the ultimate question that every human being must face: Who is Jesus Christ?"

A person's answer is of the most monumental importance, because on it hinges his eternal destiny. It is a question that no one can escape or avoid. Every soul, as it were, will be pinned against the wall of eternity and forced to answer that question."

– John MacArthur

Let us become like Peter, who truly understood who Jesus is and chose to give his life to Christ and His Church.

MATTHEW 16:

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

If Jesus Christ is God, then from Him comes the source and meaning of life, and without Him our souls will shrivel and die.

But with Him, we will experience all the fullness and beauty this life has to give, and ultimately, Eternal life with Him.