

e ssentials

Faith in One Accord

1) TITLE: We Believe In the Work of Jesus Christ—Part 1

2) INTRODUCTION

- A. Our support Scripture text for this lesson is John 1:29—*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*
- i. When it comes to the Work of Jesus Christ, the core of His work is Jesus sacrificing Himself to God on behalf of sinful humanity.
 - ii. When we use the word *work*, we are referring to Jesus's actions in saving us from the power of sin and forgiving us of our sins by way of death on a cross to secure our salvation.
- B. What we believe...

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead" (GRCC Statement of Faith).

- C. In our previous study, *"We Believe In the Deity and Humanity of Jesus Christ"*—we trust in who He is and who He says He is through the Scripture.

i. John 1:1-2, 14—*"[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God; [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

D. As we saw from our last study, this means Jesus is FULLY God and FULLY Man.

i. Another way of saying it—Jesus is WHOLLY or ENTIRELY God and WHOLLY or ENTIRELY Man.

E. He is the deity who interrupted human history by leaving heaven and through His supernatural incarnation by way of the Holy Spirit who entered our world and became the sinless Man who takes away the sin of the world, the Second Person of the Triune God.

3) OUR KEY POINT

A. To look into the Work of Jesus Christ refers to Him being the means by which salvation comes for sinful humanity.

i. In other words, we by faith believe or trust in Jesus's selfless acts which include His teachings, miracles, and sinless life that culminated His death at the Cross of Calvary for our salvation where He sacrificed Himself to atone (to cover or to take upon Himself) the sins of the world.

ii. Jesus' work also includes His burial, resurrection, and ascension where He currently sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for His followers.

B. The topic of the Work of Jesus will be broken into two parts. In part one of this study, we will look into:

- i. The **UNIQUENESS** of Jesus
- ii. The **RESURRECTION** of Jesus
- iii. And our **REDEMPTION** through Jesus

4) TRANSITION

- A. So, let's look into the importance of why believing in the Work of Jesus Christ is essential to our Christian faith.

TEACHING

I. The Uniqueness of Jesus Among Other Religions.

- A. We continue with this question: what make Jesus so unique among other religions? We saw how Jesus is fully God and fully Man. But what separates Jesus from other religions of the world?
 - 1. Jesus, as God, willingly left His heavenly throne to become like us, yet lived a sinless life, in order to die for our sins.
 - a). In John 1:29, when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him he said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*"
 - b). Ask yourself, what god or gods throughout human history—motivated by love—was willing to die for the sins of the world, offer forgiveness for our sins and eternal life? None but *the* historic Jesus of Nazareth.
 - 2. Jesus is unique because He fulfilled all prophecies. The Bible is not just an historical book, but was inspired by God.

- a). And there are Bible references that were prophetic about the coming Messiah's birthplace (Micah 5:2); how He was to be supernaturally conceived (Isaiah 7:14); His life, death, resurrection and redemptive purpose (Isaiah 53:5-7) that only Jesus Christ and no other had ever fulfilled.
- B. Jesus is unique because He was not just a mere teacher among many in human history but who claimed to be God, who died for the sins of the world, was raised from the dead which was witnessed by many people and ascended back to heaven as our Redeemer and Advocate before God the Father.
1. *"Without the person of Jesus, His work would have accomplished nothing toward redemption. Without His work, He would still be in heaven, and we would be dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1), never knowing His person."*¹
 2. Furthermore, in John 14:6, Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
 - a). For humanity to be reconciled to the Father, humanity must come through Jesus and only Him. The world may try to make the argument that Jesus is *a* way to God but not *the* way to God. To say anything else is foolish talk and being narrow minded.
 - b). We either believe or deny the truth of God's Word. We cannot make any *proclamation* of Jesus without the direct *revelation* about Jesus written in Scripture.
 - c). One source shared that *"When we speak of Jesus to others, we must not bow to the pluralistic ethos of our culture and allow him to be reduced to*

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/person-and-work-of-Jesus-Christ.html>

one religious or moral teacher among others. He claimed to be God. Either he was or he was not. If he was not, we certainly should not believe in and follow him. If he was, we should present him as we find him in the Scriptures, knowing that some will be drawn to him while others will ridicule, reject, or persecute us because of him— just as they did the apostles and countless others through the centuries. As we speak to others of Christ with the same love and humility that he modeled for us, we can be assured that he will be glorified and his elect will respond.”²

- C. Here is something we need to consider about Jesus. As Redeemer, Jesus had to be entirely God and entirely Man. And this is where the Incarnation of Jesus is paramount as our Redeemer.
1. Hebrews 2:17-18—*“[17] Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. [18] Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.”*
 2. Bible scholar and theologian Leon Morris once wrote, *“The Incarnation was not aimless; it was for the specific purpose of Jesus’ becoming a high priest, another way of saying that it was to save men.”³*
 3. Colossians 1:19-22 says, *“[19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. [21] And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [22] he has now reconciled*

² <https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/reflections-november-2006/>

³ Leon Morris, “Hebrews,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Hebrews through Revelation*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 12 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 29.

in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."

4. The uniqueness of Jesus was His willingness to give His own life for us sinners in order to be reconciled to the Father.
 - a). The world may see the cross as foolishness and even strange, but this instrument of punishment used for the guilty, was the instrument in which Jesus the Innocent One became the expression of God's love for humanity.
 - b). No teacher or false gods had ever done what Jesus had done. And He willingly sacrificed Himself on our behalf to secure our salvation. All our sins were placed on Him, to God be the Glory!
 - (i) The work of Jesus Christ was to nail all our sins— past, present and future on the Cross of Calvary!

5. Because Jesus willingly died for our sins, we now have a new life in Christ Jesus. Galatians 2:20—*"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*
 - a). There is no god like our God. In Micah 7:18-19, though it was address to the nation of Israel, these words are very applicable for us today—*"[18] Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. [19] He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."*

b). In light of Micah 7:8-20, Bible commentator and theologian David Prior writes, *"If the Lord is light in the darkness (8–10), shepherd to his people (11–14) and God over the nations (15–17), it is not surprising to find Micah exclaiming, Who is a God like thee? (18). What is surprising is that these are not the characteristics of the Lord in which he proceeds to exult. What marks the Lord out from all other gods is his steadfast love (ḥesed, 18, 20), a love located in the will which stresses mainly unchanging commitment; and also his compassion (19), a love that is mainly emotional."*⁴

(i) Again, the love of God the Father is expressed and manifested through Jesus, God the Son.

D. Moreover, Jesus is unique among other world religions because of His historical resurrection, which is our next point.

II. Jesus and the Resurrection—

A. Jesus's resurrection is unique in human history for no spiritual leader, teacher or false god came back from the dead so that we may have salvation through the one who conquered sin and death, offering us eternal life but Jesus.

1. Now, the Bible itself is recognized as God's inspired Word, and shows that human history coincides with God's sovereign plan and providence.

B. The historical resurrection of Jesus Christ spoken in the Bible is no different from the prophetic words from Genesis 15:13-14 that the Israelite would be slaves of Egypt for four hundred years followed by a mass exodus out of Egypt, or from the Book of Daniel about the coming empires of the Medes and Persians, or the Greek and Roman empires which was fulfilled and became a part of human history.

⁴ David Prior, *The Message of Joel, Micah and Habakkuk: Listening to the Voice of God*, ed. J. A. Motyer and Derek Tidball, *The Bible Speaks Today* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 199.

1. Furthermore, there were many firsthand witnesses, first and secondhand testimonies through the writings of the New Testament writers, plus 1st century historians like Tacitus, Josephus and Pliny the Younger (who were by no means friends to Christians) testified to the actual historical person of Jesus Christ.
- C. With *all* the historical information currently available, to say that Jesus did not exist and to deny His death, resurrection and ascension is to be intellectually dishonest.
1. We have a choice to say you don't believe, but to say otherwise is to be intellectually dishonest.
 2. We can say that the sinking of the Titanic never occurred, but it doesn't lessen the historical written facts and eyewitnesses of the actual sinking of the Titanic.
 3. Likewise, one's denial of the person and work of Jesus Christ doesn't lessen or negate the historical facts and eyewitnesses of an actual existence and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.
- D. Furthermore, denying His humanity or His physical body will lead to denying His physical resurrection from the dead.
1. Ask yourself—what is there to be gain in following a dead Jesus who claim to be God but never rose from the dead!?
 - a). We would not be any different from the other world religions following their dead leaders, founders or teachers.
 - b). What separates the Christian faith is every other religious leader has a permanent expiration date on their tomb stone. But as for Jesus, He only borrowed a tomb for three days and then rose from the dead!

2. In 1st Corinthians 15:12-20, and 54-57 the apostle Paul wrote, *"[12] Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. [15] We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. [19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. [20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...*

[54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." [55] "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- E. So, without the historic physical resurrected Jesus, means, no Redeemer = NO SALVATION!

III. The Work of Jesus as Redeemer

- A. A redeemer is someone who redeems or ransoms; one who pays a price to liberate or save others.
- B. Jesus is our Redeemer. In the Biblical sense, the Work of Jesus means His ability to rescue or having the power of deliverance from captivity or from the bondage of sin.

C. Sin is the great separator between sinful humanity from their holy Creator God.

1. In Christianity, Jesus is considered the Redeemer who paid the price for humanity's sins through His sacrificial death on the cross to set us free from the tyranny and consequences of sin.
 - a). Remember, the Father initiated salvation but Jesus fulfilled the role of Redeemer for our salvation.
2. Ephesians 1:7—*"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."*
3. Therefore, the work of Jesus as Redeemer emphasizes liberation from sin *and* the restoration of a right relationship with God.
4. When it comes to our redemption through Jesus Christ it *"denotes release or deliverance from a state of slavery. This redemption is from sin (Heb. 9:15), and thus this work of Christ delivers believers from slavery to sin. This is further defined by the forgiveness of sins (cf. Eph. 4:32; Col. 1:14), which is the immediate result of a believer's release from sin's hold."*⁵

D. Humanity is unique among all creation for we are the only creation made in the image of God. But sin came into the world through *"one man (Adam), resulting in death through sin, and so death spread to all men (humanity) because all sinned"* (Romans 5:12) and therefore human beings are born with a sinful nature.

1. And because we are all born with sin, Jesus said we need to be born again from sin and death.

⁵ Harold W. Hoehner, *"Ephesians," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 618.*

- a). When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about entering into God's kingdom Jesus said he needed to be born again. In John 3:3 Jesus said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

2. *"The phrase translated 'born again' can also be translated as 'born from above.' Nicodemus had a real need. He needed a change of his heart—a spiritual transformation that could only come from above. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes indicates that being 'born again' also carries the idea of becoming 'children of God' through trust in the name of Jesus Christ."*⁶
 - a). 1st Peter 1:3 (NLT)—*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

3. So, how are we now to live as born again children of God? 1st John 5:1-4 (CSB)—*"[1] Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of him. [2] This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey his commands. [3] For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, [4] because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith."*
 - a). One source shared that, *"With these words, the writer affirmed that a believer is a world-conqueror by means of his faith in Christ. This suggests that such faith is the secret of his continuing victory and, for that reason, obedience to God's commands need not be burdensome. But the object of*

⁶ <https://www.gotquestions.org/born-again.html>

this faith must always be the One who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ.”⁷

E. As followers of Jesus, we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures *as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice*, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood.

1. Substitutionary sacrifice and Substitutionary atonement refer to Jesus Christ as a substitute for sinners, meaning, Jesus died in our place. 2nd Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) says, *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

a). This means Jesus took the place of us sinners and died for our sins by taking the punishment of God’s wrath upon His blameless and sinless self which we deserve.

b). God’s wrath speaks of His holy and righteous expression against humanity’s sin and the results of sin which leads to disobedience and rebelliousness.

c). The remedy for God’s wrath against humanity’s sin is His Son Jesus.

(i) John 3:36—*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”*

(ii) Romans 5:6-11 (CSB)—*“[6] For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone*

⁷ John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *Dallas Theological Seminary, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 901.

might even dare to die. [8] But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. [10] For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. [11] And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation."

- F. Therefore, to those who have been declared righteous through faith in the resurrected Jesus, who died in our place for our sins, will never have to suffer the wrath of God.
1. But because of God's love for us while we were yet sinners Jesus died for us to reconcile us to God the Father that we may have a relationship with Him, thus changing our status from being God's enemies to being sons and daughters in God's family.
 2. *"Since God's love and the death of Christ have brought us justification, then as a result of that love, we can also expect salvation from God's wrath."*⁸
 3. 2nd Corinthians 5:17-21 says, *"[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

⁸ Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, *The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version* (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ro 5:9–10.

[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- G. Do you want a definition of Jesus as our substitutionary sacrifice? It's right there in 2nd Corinthians 5:21—"*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*"

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. In closing, Jesus is unique as a redeemer because He is both fully divine and fully human, enabling Him to bridge the gap between God and humanity. Jesus's perfect sinless life separates Him from other religious or moral teachers that ever lived for He made Himself to be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.
- B. Being fully God and fully Man, Jesus's resurrection validates His authoritative power over sin and death.
1. And because of this uniqueness of His resurrection allows Him to be our Redeemer offering redemption to all who believe in Him, providing not just a pathway to forgiveness but also a transformative relationship with God, anchored in love, grace, and hope.
- C. The Resurrected Jesus who by His redemption extends to all, inviting them into a life transformed by faith, love, and the Holy Spirit's guidance.
1. Unlike other religious figures, Jesus's role as redeemer is rooted in His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. His perfect, sinless life made Him the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.
 2. Jesus's resurrection validates His divine authority and power over sin and death. This uniqueness allows Him to offer redemption to all who believe in

Him, providing not just a pathway to forgiveness but also a transformative relationship with God, anchored in love, grace, and hope.

E. With God the Father, there was never nor will there ever be a plan B when it comes to God rescuing sinners. Our Redeemer Jesus is the only means to the Father's rescue mission on behalf of humanity.

1. Ephesians 1:3-10—*"[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."*

F. So, based on the inerrant and infallible Word of God—

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead" (GRCC Statement of Faith).

To God Be The Glory Forever and Ever. Amen!