

***Jesus is I AM
Jesus is God
John 8:58-59***

The issue throughout Christian history that has always offended and caused people to despise Christians has been the divinity of Jesus.

Many religions throughout the world and throughout history have made many comments about Jesus.

Many religions say some very nice things about him

In the Quran, the Muslims say several nice things about Jesus:

... That He was born of virgin Mary

... That God sent down the Gospels through Him

... Even that He spoke in the cradle (Quran 19:29-30)

In Quran 5:110 Muhammad declared that ...

... Jesus performed many miracles

"Then will God say: 'O Jesus the son of Mary! recount My favor to you and to your mother. Behold! I strengthened you with the Holy Spirit (the angel Gabriel) so that you did speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught you the Book and Wisdom, the Law and the Gospel. And behold: ... you heal those born blind, and the lepers by My leave. And behold! you bring forth the dead by My leave. And behold! I did restrain the children of Israel from (violence to you) when you did show

them the Clear Signs, and the unbelievers among them said: 'This is nothing but evident magic' " (Quran 5:110).

But when it comes to Jesus being God, however...

... the Quran clearly declares Jesus is NOT the Son of God

"People of the Book (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, and attribute to God nothing except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was only a Messenger of God, and His command that He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in God and in His Messengers, and do not say: 'God is a Trinity.' Give up this assertion; it would be better for you. God is indeed just One God. Far be it from His glory that He should have a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth. God is sufficient for a guardian" (Quran 4:171).

Most religions have no real problem seeing Jesus as a prophet, but they ALL flat out deny Jesus being God.

What about those claiming to be Christians?

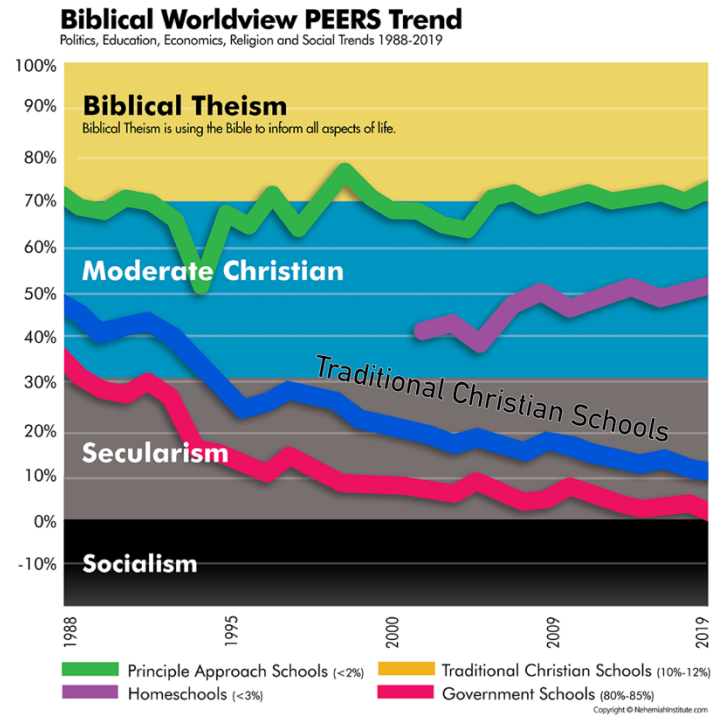
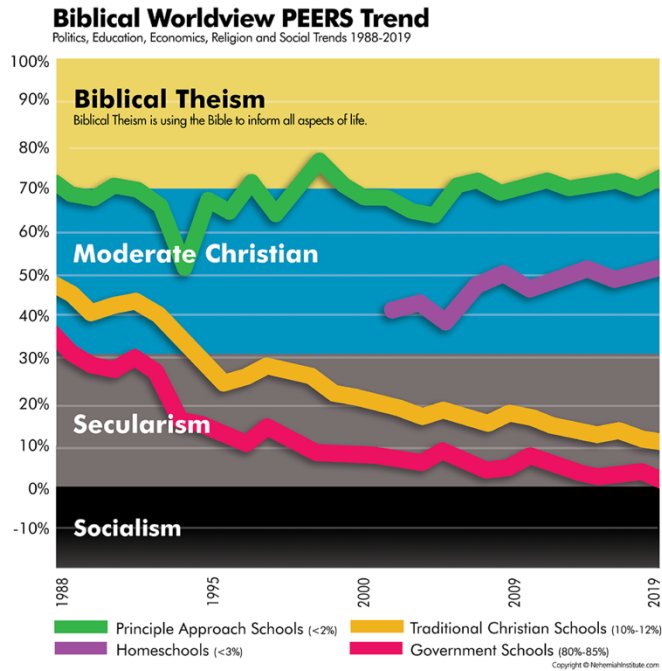
Surprisingly, an ever growing number of professing Christians are rejecting a Biblical Theistic Worldview

In his book, "The Last Christian Generation", Josh McDowell gives some alarming statistics regarding the generation of youth growing up in the American Church.

A survey done by the Nehemiah Institute of Lexington, KY

- Called PEERS testing***
- The PEERS Test is the only professionally validated test of the worldview of individuals in the areas of Politics, Economics, Education, Religion and Social Issues.***

- **Politics, Economics, Education, Religion, and Social issues (PEERS)**
- **Offered to Christian Schools**
- **Tests students according to one of four worldviews**
- **Biblical Theism, Moderate Christian, Secular Humanism, Socialism**



This week we are beginning a new series that I've titled, "Jesus is I AM"

ONE THING

As our CULTURE is becoming more SECULARIZED, CHRISTIANS are becoming more DEMONIZED, BIBLICAL FAITH is becoming more OSTRACIZED,

because JESUS is becoming more TRIVIALIZED!

1. The DECLARATION – Jesus claims to be GOD!

John 8:56–59 (ESV) — Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

The Key:

John 8:58 (ESV) — Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

In this passage Jesus says something that so infuriates the Pharisees that they want to kill him.

John 8:59 (ESV) — So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

What did He say?

What did Jesus say that was SO OFFENSIVE that these Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Him?

To understand what Jesus said we need to hear His words through the ears of those Jewish religious leaders...

A religious Jew had such reverence for the name of God that they would NEVER speak His name out loud for fear

that they would break the 3rd Commandment...

“Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”

In fact, the Lord goes on to say in Exodus 20:7 that He, “...will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Even today, religious Jews who write articles, even in English, will write, “Gd” instead of spelling out G-o-d. To make certain that they do not break this 3rd commandment.

In fact, taking the Lord’s name in vain was considered a capital offense to the Jews, and worthy of death!

→ ILLUSTRATION – Me saying something offensive

- To help you understand, what if I began spouting off a barrage of curse words right now?
- It would so offend you that nothing else I had to say would matter...
- In fact, you couldn’t hear anything else I said!

So, what did Jesus say?

John 8:58 (ESV) — ... “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

The phrase, “I am” is what so offended those Jewish religious leaders...

ἐγὼ εἰμί – ego eimi

Moses at the BURNING BUSH

Exodus 3:13 (ESV) — Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your

fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

Exodus 3:14 (ESV) — God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

The phrase, "I AM WHO I AM", is who Jesus claims here!

The Greek translation of God's name here is "ego eimi"!

This was not the first time Jesus had used this Name referring to himself...

→ To the woman at the well:

John 4:26 (ESV) — Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Literal – "Jesus said to her, 'I AM, is the one who speaks to you.'"

→ When Jesus came walking on the water:

Matthew 14:27 (ESV) — But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Matthew 14:27 (NA28) — 27 εὐθὺς δὲ ἐλάλησεν [ὁ Ἰησοῦς] αὐτοῖς λέγων· Θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε.

Mark 6:50 (ESV) — 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50 (NA28) — 50 πάντες γὰρ αὐτὸν εἶδον καὶ ἐταράχθησαν. ὁ δὲ εὐθὺς ἐλάλησεν μετ' αὐτῶν, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε.

John 6:20 (ESV) — 20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

John 6:20 (NA28) — 20 ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε.

Literal – "Take heart, 'I AM; do not be afraid."

In John chapter 10 we find Jesus, once again, declaring Himself to be God...

Again, with the Jewish leaders Jesus was speaking regarding Him being the Good Shepherd...

John 10:30–33 (ESV) — I and the Father are one." The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

On the night he was betrayed...

John 14:8–9 (ESV) — Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me,

Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

**As our culture is becoming more secularized,
Christians are becoming more demonized,
Biblical faith is becoming more ostracized,
because Jesus is becoming more trivialized!**

1. The DECLARATION – Jesus claims to be GOD!

2. The CONFIRMATION – Jesus BODILY rose from the grave!

Jesus' bodily Resurrection

John 20:16 (ESV) — Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Mary was not the only one who saw the resurrected Jesus!

In fact, Jesus appeared to many people!

1 Corinthians 15:3–6 (ESV) — For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

Because of His bodily resurrection, His disciples knew Jesus to be God...

The DISCIPLES declared the Jesus is God

→ Thomas declares Jesus as God

John 20:27–28 (ESV) — Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

→ Paul declares Jesus as God

Titus 2:11–13 (ESV) — For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

→ Peter declares Jesus as God

2 Peter 1:1 (ESV) — ... To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

**As our culture is becoming more secularized,
Christians are becoming more demonized,
Biblical faith is becoming more ostracized,
because Jesus is becoming more trivialized!**

1. The DECLARATION – Jesus claims to be God!

2. The CONFIRMATION – Jesus bodily rose from the grave!

3. The RAMIFICATION – EVERY person either RECEIVES or REJECTS this reality!

Jesus made no hesitation to the TRUTH that He is God.

WHAT MUST WE DO WITH THESE CLAIMS?

John 8:24 (ESV) — I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

Literal – “...for unless you believe I AM you will die in your sins.”

John 8:28 (ESV) — So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

Literal – “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM ...”

Thomas’ declaration of Jesus being God...

Following Thomas’ declaration, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:29 (ESV) — Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Believe what?

Believe that Jesus is GOD!!!

Acts 4:12 (ESV) — And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (ESV) — But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

C. S. Lewis declared that there are only THREE OPTIONS when it comes to Jesus...

Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord!

So, because Jesus clearly declared Himself to be God and proved His truth claim by rising bodily from the grave, we each must decide for ourselves...

1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) — Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

February 07, 2021

Crossgates AM Worship

David Jett

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Jesus is God
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As our _____ is becoming more _____,
_____ are becoming more _____,
_____ is becoming more _____,
because _____ is becoming more _____!

1. The _____ – Jesus claims to be _____!

2. The _____ – Jesus _____ rose
from the grave!

3. The _____ – _____ person either
_____ or _____ this reality!