

OCIA – Who is Jesus?

- “The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mk 1:1).
 - “Good news” (*euangelion*) was a term used to describe an imperial victory.
 - The first Gospel is saying that Jesus had brought about a victory that EVERYONE must know about.
 - “Son of God”
 - Ever since the time of Caesar Augustus, “Son of God” was a title claimed by the Roman emperor.
 - St. Paul could say *Iesous Kyrios* (Jesus is Lord), as opposed to *Kaiser Kyrios* (Caesar is Lord).
 - The Good News is that the new and authentic King has won the decisive victory- and now it's time to join his army.
 - This decisive victory was by Jesus Christ, the Son of God...That’s who He is!
 - Jesus: “God saves”
 - Christ: “Anointed one”
 - Son of God: He is God.

Is it reasonable to believe that Jesus is Lord?

- Other religions:
 - Jews: a human teacher who went too far in his claims.
 - Muslims: a holy prophet.
 - Hindus & Buddhists: an “enlightened man.”
 - Jordan Peterson: Jesus was the proper balance between order & chaos, life & death.
- Did Jesus actually live?
 - Agnostic scholar Bart Ehrman: “The view that Jesus existed is held by virtually every expert on the planet.”
 - Josephus, 1st Century Jewish historian: Jesus was a wise man who Pontius Pilate condemned to the Cross.
 - Tacitus, 2nd Century historian: Christians received their name from “Christus,” who “was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius.”
- Having established “Jesus” actually lived, what are we to make of Him?
 - Jesus claimed He was Lord.
 - “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.” (Jn 8:58)
 - Jews around Him claimed He said He was Lord
 - In John 19, Pilate tells the Jewish leaders that he finds no guilt worthy of the capital sentence. They answer Pilate, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God.”
 - Mark 14:62-64 - “Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”
 - Christians claimed He was God – Gospels & all of the early Church.

- They died for this claim.
- Non-Christians claimed He claimed that He claimed that!

- Given the claims that Jesus Himself makes, He is either: a Liar, a Lunatic, or Lord.
 - Liar: the Jesus lied about who He was in order to deceive everyone.
 - Jesus was a man of Integrity & Kindness, preaching a message of self-denial, sacrifice, and love. Why would someone try to trick people into that?
 - Further, Jesus performed countless miracles. He wasn't lying about His power.
 - Lunatic: that Jesus was crazy & thought He was God.
 - He was incredibly versed in Scriptures, made logical arguments (that no one could defeat), and made prophecies that came true (like the Fall of Jerusalem & how He would be killed).
 - Not like a cult leader – many, many different people followed after Him.
- So, He must be LORD.

Objectively, Who is Jesus?

- a) The Second Person of the Trinity, the Son.
 - He is God!
 - Consubstantial with the Father.
 - This means He is just as much “God” as God the Father.
 - Jesus is not a “sub-God” (Arianism)
 - Jesus says multiple times: “I and the Father are one...”
- b) A Divine Person with both a Human & Divine Nature
 - 1 Person, 2 Natures
 - Person: who you are
 - Nature: what you are
 - Trinity
 - 1 Divine Being
 - 1 Divine Nature
 - Not 33% God.
 - 3 Divine Persons
- c) Completely without sin, the One who conquered sin.
 - Jesus was without original sin & never committed sin.
 - His human will was perfectly aligned with his Divine will.

Subjectively, who is Jesus?

- Kind: Woman caught in adultery
- Humble: Though God, He served others
- Authoritative: Spoke deep truth into peoples' lives
- Wise / Providential: Knowing when to attend to Lazarus
- Emmanuel: God with us
- Identifies with the broken: Francis of Assisi & Martin de Tours

Jesus is a Son, Brother, Bridegroom, and Father