

Article 2, Part 2 – God the Son
Back to the Basics

Intro – Barna Study – 5 Popular Beliefs Americans Have About Jesus (released in 2015)

- **1. The Vast Majority of Americans Believe Jesus Was a Real Person.** More than nine out of 10 adults say Jesus Christ was a real person who actually lived (92%). While the percentages dip slightly among younger generations—only 87 percent of Millennials agree Jesus actually lived—Americans are still very likely to believe the man, Jesus Christ, once walked the earth.
- **2. Younger Generations Are Increasingly Less Likely to Believe Jesus Was God.** Most adults—not quite six in 10—believe Jesus was God (56%), while about one-quarter say he was only a religious or spiritual leader like Mohammed or the Buddha (26%). The remaining one in six say they aren't sure whether Jesus was divine (18%).
- **3. Americans Are Divided on Whether Jesus Was Sinless.** About half of Americans agree, either strongly or somewhat, that while he lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins like other people (52%). Just less than half disagree, either strongly or somewhat, that Jesus committed sins while on earth (46%), and 2 percent aren't sure.
- **4. Most Americans Say They Have Made a Commitment to Jesus Christ.** The act of making a personal commitment to Jesus—often seen as the “first step” in becoming a Christian—is a step

that more than six in 10 Americans say they have taken and, moreover, that commitment is still important in their life today.

- **5. People Are Conflicted between “Jesus” and “Good Deeds” as the Way to Heaven.** When given several beliefs about the afterlife to choose from, nearly two-thirds of those who have made a personal commitment to Jesus say they believe that after they die they will go to heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior (63%).

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

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- Christians believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God because the Bible presents Jesus that way. Among the many Bible passages, Col. 1:13-16 and Hebrews 1:2 tell us that it was the Son who created all things at the beginning of time.
- Furthermore, there are numerous verses that speak of God the Father sending the Son into the world to redeem sinful man (John 20:21; Galatians 4:4; 1 John 4:14; 1 John 4:10) and giving His Son as a sacrifice for sin (John 3:16).
- Some assert that Jesus – the second Person of the Trinity – only became the Son of God at His baptism, but clearly that’s not the case. Jesus always has been and will be the Son of God.
- Jesus Christ left the glory of heaven through “His incarnation.” The word “incarnation” literally means “in flesh.” The Son of God literally “became flesh” in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- How did it happen? First, *“He was conceived of the Holy Spirit.” God explained to Mary – “You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God”* (Luke 1:32, 36).
- Christ was not conceived by any man – Christ was conceived by God Himself through the Holy Spirit. That’s why Mary was truly a virgin when Jesus was conceived and born.

- Many have challenged the virgin birth as an impossibility and have suggested that it should no longer be considered foundational to our faith. Yet, Isaiah prophesied – *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”* (Isa. 7:14).
- The Greek language used in Luke’s Gospel is clearly a reference to a young virgin girl. Furthermore, it was God’s plan for Jesus to not only be the Son of Man, but also the Son of God. Only a virgin birth could accomplish that.
- To deny the virgin birth is to deny the Christian faith by asserting that Jesus was not truly the Son of God.

Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin.

- This section of the article confronts us with the perfection of Jesus, or as theologians call it, the “impeccability of Christ.” Christians believe that Jesus Christ was and is perfectly sinless.
- Ungodly films such as “The Last Temptation of Christ” and “The DaVinci Code” portrayed Jesus as a flawed man, sinning with Mary Magdalene among others.
- But the Scripture is very clear – *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15). He was tempted in every possible way, but never sinned.

- Isa. 53:9 says, “*He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.*” Centuries before Jesus lived, Isaiah prophesied that the Suffering Servant would never do anything wrong.
- The article says that Jesus “revealed and did the will of God.” Jesus is the most perfect revelation of the Godhead to mankind. The author of Hebrews said, “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*” (Heb. 1:1-2).
- Through His perfect sinless life, Jesus always did the will of God by “*taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind.*”
- In other words, Jesus did something that God had never done. He was thirsty. He was hungry. He suffered pain and rejection. He was beaten. He bled. He died. Jesus was fully acquainted with the human experience.
- That should give us all a great deal of comfort. No matter what you’re going through, Jesus can sympathize because He’s been tried and tempted in every imaginable way. He always understands and show us the way forward (1 Cor. 10:13).

He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

- Jesus “honored the divine law by His personal obedience.” That means He perfectly filled every precept of God’s Law under the old covenant. He’s the only human to keep the law perfectly!

- As such, He’s the only Person that was able to act as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Through “His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.”
- Simply put – Jesus took the place of every man, woman, and child when He died on the cross. He was our substitute on the cross. He took the beating and cruel death we should’ve received.
- Paul explained – “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*” (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus paid our sin dead vicariously – in our place!
- Through His own blood, “He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.” He presented His own blood to the Heavenly Father, and in doing so He paid the price for the sins of mankind. He acts as Redeemer to all who trust in Him!
- We need to be clear – there is no other “provision” for the redemption of men from sin. Good works can’t justify us. Lot of money, good intentions, etc. – only the blood of Jesus pays our sin debt.

He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion.

- This section of the article brings our attention to the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus. The Bible is clear that Jesus was crucified on a Friday, then rose back to life three days later on Sunday!
- 1 Cor. 15:3-4 – “*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*”

- When Christ was resurrected from the dead, it was with “a glorified body.” And while the Body of Jesus was not as bloody and battered as it had been, He did appear to His disciples as the person who was with them before the crucifixion.
- The disciples recognized Jesus. The Gospels tell us that He appeared to the disciples on numerous occasions following His resurrection. He even made a special appearance so that Thomas could see the marks made by the nails and the spear (John 20:24ff).
- The resurrection of Jesus is the climax of human history. If Jesus had remained dead, there would be no salvation. There would be no sanctification. There would be no hope of heaven!
- Paul explained – *“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable”* (1 Cor. 15:13-19).
- Not only does the Word tell us that Jesus is alive, just look at our calendar. Christ literally split human civilization in two! Furthermore, His disciples went from being cowering cowards to strong soulwinners because He is alive!

- Furthermore, after 2,000 years, the church is still alive and well. And while it appears the church in America is in decline, it's growing by leaps and bounds in other places. Two millennia of Christian history prove that Jesus is alive!

He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.

- Christ presented Himself to hundreds of people after His resurrection for a period of 40 days. On day 40, Christ gathered with His disciples on the Mount of Olives. From there He commissioned His disciples once more and ascended upward into the heavens (Acts 1).
- The author of Hebrews tells us what Jesus did when He arrived back home in heaven – *“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool”* (Heb. 10:12-13).
- Jesus is “now exalted” at the right hand of God – the right hand being the place of privilege. From His heavenly throne, “He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully Man.”
- Paul was clear on this point – *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,”* (1 Tim. 2:5-6).
- Jesus is the only One who can act as our Mediator. Being fully God He can reach the Lord, and being fully man He can reach sinful humans!

- In the person of Jesus, reconciliation between God and man is accomplished. Every human is born a sinner and an enemy of God, but Jesus reconciles us to the Father and through Him we become children of God. From enemies to children!
- For those of us who've been reconciled to God through Christ, God "*has given us the ministry of reconciliation*" (2 Cor. 5:18). It's our duty to point others to One who can reconcile them to God.

He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.

- Just as sure as Jesus came to the earth through the incarnation, Jesus will come back as the victorious champion of heaven. "He will return in power and glory!"
- John said, "*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen*" (Rev. 1:7).
- Rev. 19 gives us just a glimpse of what His return will be like. Jesus riding on a white horse with all the armies of heaven accompanying Him. A sharp double-edged sword protruding from His mouth!
- When Christ comes to establish His kingdom, He will "judge the world." Paul said, "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad*" (2 Cor. 5:10).
- Following His victory at Armageddon (Rev. 16), Jesus will establish His millennial reign on this earth (Rev. 20). We will reign with Christ!

- All of this is part of Christ's "redemptive mission." Every believer in Christ is redeemed, but our salvation is not ultimately complete until we are raptured into the presence of Jesus. Then, our faith will be made sight and God's saving work will be complete!

He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

- Several NT passages make reference to the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of Christ," not because the Holy Spirit is Jesus, but because the Spirit's ministry points us always to Jesus.
- We know that Jesus is completely God and as such He is omnipresent. But through the Holy Spirit Christ has a very special presence within every follower of Christ.
- Romans 8:9-10 – "*If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*"
- Living in every follower of Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is "the living and ever present Lord." Jesus said it best – "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" (Heb. 13:5)
- Jesus also promised – "*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" (Matt. 28:20). The Apostle Paul found that when everyone else deserted him, Jesus stood with him (2 Tim. 4:17).

Conclusion – In regard to Jesus, you only have three options – you think He's either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord of glory. We confess, "*Jesus is Lord!*" (1 Cor. 12:3)