

Intro: Controversery over Jesus Christ, the gospel, the Holy Spirit, and the authenticity and reliablity of Scripture is nothing new, and it is not usually by accident from those wanting to dismiss Christians and destroy Christianity.

2 Cor.11:1-4, 12-15; Acts 20:28-31; Gal.1:6-8; Col.2:18-19; 1 Tim.6:20-21; 2 Tim.2:15; Titus 1:7-9

Foundations are important. If you want to tear down a house, a highrise, a skyscraper, an entire country or a world religion, attack and tear down the foundations, and the entire structure will eventually collapse. Secularists, Socialists, and Marxists understand this principle and apply it with enthusiasm, persistence, and discipline. Many theists in general, and Christians in particular, either forget this principle or naively choose to ignore it. How many Christians who respond to disagreements with a statement like, “my truth, your truth” or “it’s all about tolerance and love” realize they are embracing moral, ethical and religious relativity, and rejecting Scripture and a Christian worldview when they do this, usually in hopes of appearing reasonable and likable? Who is Jesus Christ was and is foundational to biblical Christianity. Although there is ultimately only one true answer to this question, there are certainly many competing and opposing opinions.

“Jesus claimed to be God” is foundationall to the Christain faith and personal salvation.

John 8:58/Exodus 3:13-15

John 10:27-33

Mark 14:62-64; Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 1:8, 17, 18; 22:13-16

Jesus made statements about Himself which could only be true if He is God.

Mark 2:5-7 Jesus claimed that He could forgive sins - something only God can do.

John 20:28 Jesus accepted the worship of Thomas - an act reserved for God.

John 4:25-26 Jesus claimed to be the promised Jewish Messiah.

John 10:28 Jesus claimed He could give eternal life - something only God can do.

John 5:21-23 Jesus claimed that He is to receive the same honor as the Father.

Jesus foes and His friends concurred that He claimed to be God.

Foes: *Mark 14:61-64*

Friends:	<i>John 1:1</i>	<i>The Apostle John</i>
	<i>John 20:28</i>	<i>The Apostle Thomas</i>
	<i>Philippians 2:5-6</i>	<i>The Apostle Paul</i>
	<i>Colossians 2:9</i>	<i>The Apostle Paul</i>
	<i>Titus 2:13</i>	<i>The Apostle Paul</i>
	<i>2 Peter 1:1</i>	<i>The Apostle Peter</i>

Who should care? Christians who value biblical truth over personal opinions, and those who follow us in the faith that we commanded by Jesus Christ to reach, teach and train as disciples. The difference in the truth and opinions over this foundational question will mean the difference in spending eternity in heaven or hell, depending on whether we believe in Jesus for salvation or not. **There is no bell curve on the answer to this question, John 3:36; 14:6.**