## The Divinity of Jesus

1. What does the Bible say?			
	a. Every New Testament writer refers to Jesus as the "" or Messiah. (Matthew 1:1, Mark 1:1, Luke 9:20; John 4:25-26; Romans 1:4; Hebrews 6:1; James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1)		
	b. The title appears over 500 times and all but in one book, 3 John.		
	c. Both the earliest (Paul) and latest (John) New Testament authors used the most exalted titles for Jesus. ( <u>Galatians 4:4-6</u> ; <u>John 20:30-31</u> )		
	d. All the New Testament authors use the title "" which in the context equate Jesus with deity. (Matthew 7:21-22; Mark 5:19; Luke 10:1-2; Hebrews 1:10; 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 1:4)		
	e. The earliest (Paul) and latest (John) also encourage giving Jesus the highest possible honors. (Romans 10:11; John 8:24)		
2. Who did Jesus say he was?			
	a. Jesus referred to himself 82 times as the		
	b. "" ( <u>Mark 14:62-64</u> )		
	c. The of the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17)		
	d. The Authority ( <u>Matthew 5:21-22</u> )		
	e. The ( <u>Matthew 7:23-27</u> )		
	<b>f.</b> of Sins ( <u>Mark 2:5</u> )		
	g with God the Father ( <u>John 5:16-18</u> , <u>8:56-59</u> , <u>10:30-33</u> )		
3. Evidence that Jesus' claims are true			
	a. His death, burial, and		
	b. Why believe in the resurrection?		
	i. All 4 Gospels report that the tomb belonged to of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish ruling court, which turned Jesus over for execution.		
	ii. All 4 Gospels report the first people to discover the empty tomb were followers of Jesus.		

	the resurrection story spread if one disregards the
	n, people began reporting experiences that they were with Jesus.
v. Thesethe Gospel.	_ encounters with the risen Lord sparked the spreading of
vi. His disciples were w Son of God.	villing to for him because they believed him to be the

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Why do many people today prefer to view Jesus as merely a good moral teacher or wise philosopher rather than the divine Son of God?
- 2. According to the content, every New Testament writer refers to Jesus as the "Christ" or Messiah. Why is this consistent use of the title significant in countering the idea that Jesus was only a teacher?
- 3. The title "LORD" is applied to Jesus throughout the New Testament, equating him with deity. How does this usage challenge the view that early Christians saw Jesus as just a human teacher?
- 4. In Mark 14:62-64, Jesus' use of "I AM" led to accusations of blasphemy. Why did his contemporaries interpret this statement as a claim to divinity, and what does their reaction reveal?
- 5. Jesus claimed to fulfill the Law and the Prophets (<u>Matthew 5:17</u>) rather than simply explain them. How does this distinguish him from other Jewish teachers of his time?
- 6. How does C.S. Lewis' famous "trilemma" (Lord, Liar, or Lunatic) apply to Jesus' claims? Do you find this argument convincing, and why or why not?
- 7. The resurrection is presented as the primary evidence validating Jesus' claims to divinity. Why would the resurrection, if historical, make it impossible to view Jesus as merely a good teacher?