

## “Christianity Explained: How Do You Become A Christian? (Part 3c) [Believe the Truth About Jesus]”

Here’s today’s emphasis: *a person becomes a Christian by believing the truth about Jesus*. A person cannot afford to get it wrong about Jesus; each person must declare and believe who Jesus truly is. You can’t just believe *some* of the truths about Jesus or add false assertions; you must believe the whole truth and nothing but the truth about Him. This true teaching about Jesus comes only from the Holy Bible. Jesus Himself said, in John 8:24, 28 that *those who fail to believe that Jesus is who He claims to be will die in their sins*. So, the stakes are high. Even though we must believe *everything* the Scripture teaches about Jesus, the Bible Itself gives us two crucial truths about Jesus that a person must believe in order to become a Christian: ***in order to become a Christian a person must believe that Jesus is THE CHRIST and THE SON OF GOD*** (see John 10:24-26, 36-38; 11:27; 19:7; 20:30-31; Acts 8:37; 1 John 5:1, 5). Hear the Word of the Lord from two passages. The Apostle John wrote in John 20:30-31: “*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*” The Apostle Matthew wrote in Matthew 16:13-16: “*When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ <sup>14</sup> So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ <sup>15</sup> He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’*”

Against the pagan backdrop of Caesarea Philippi Jesus demanded comparison with the world’s religions and to have a verdict given in His favor. Four answers bubbled to the surface in answer to Jesus’ question as to who the misguided multitudes thought He was. Humanly speaking, their answers set Jesus in a high place and paid Him great compliments. But all their answers fell short of who Jesus really is, because even the highest of human categories are inadequate to describe Jesus Christ. Jesus stands alone as unique. Then things got really personal when Jesus asked, “*But who do you say that I am?*” You won’t be held accountable for what others think of Jesus, but you will be eternally accountable for what you think about Him. Christianity never consists in knowing *about* Jesus, it always consists in *knowing Jesus* personally. The Father in heaven revealed to Peter that Jesus was unlike anyone else. To become a Christian, every person must believe and declare the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit that *Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God*.

The title “Christ” occurs over 500 times in the New Testament. The Hebrew word, “*Messiah*” and the Greek word, “*Christ*” have the same meaning: “*The Anointed One*.” Hundreds of Old Testament prophecies laid out the clear truths about the coming Messiah, and Jesus fulfilled every one. But in the 400 years of silence between the Testaments, earthly and human ideas, dreams

and embellishments about the coming Messiah began to emerge. In short, when Jesus came the people were expecting a super-human figure to crash into history as God's Messiah and bring complete conquest and liberty for God's people through a bath of blood. But Jesus' true Messiahship looked much different. Jesus brought God's ultimate intervention of New Covenant salvation into human history through suffering, rejection, death and resurrection.

To believe and declare that Jesus is *the Son of God* is to agree with Jesus that He and His Father are one (see John 10:30). It's to affirm that Jesus is Divine, that Jesus is actually God in human flesh. His Divinity is proven by His sinless life, His miracles (including His resurrection from the dead), and fulfillment of all the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. Not one recognized religious leader has ever claimed to be God, except for Jesus Christ. Jesus alone made that claim, because He alone is the Son of God.

## **Discussion Guide/Action Steps**

1. Read through the New Testament (several times?) and write down or mark every allusion to Jesus; then believe what you have discovered.
2. Believe and declare: *Jesus, You are THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD!*
3. Do you believe Jesus is THE CHRIST? Do you believe Jesus is God's Anointed Messiah who brought the ultimate intervention of God's New Covenant salvation into human history, in the manner that God ordained?
4. Do you believe Jesus is THE SON OF GOD? Do you believe Jesus is God incarnate? Do you believe Jesus is fully Man and fully God (the God-Man)? Do you believe Jesus is God in human flesh?
5. I invite you to listen to these songs which give expression to today's message:
  - a. "You are the Christ" from "The Witness" musical (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD348oNG4gE>);
  - b. "I Believe in Jesus" by Vineyard (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCzOTIHMRvY>);
  - c. "You Are the Christ" by White Stones (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRuURk2POy0>);
  - d. "Jesus He is the Son of God" by Dallas Holm (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmCiRg9y3EE>).