

Is Jesus Really God?

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Our Purpose: To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

1. The Bible **TEACHES** that Jesus is God

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

—John 1:3 (ESV)

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ

—2 Peter 1:1 (ESV)

30 I and the Father are one.” 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” 33 The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

—John 10:30-35 (ESV)

27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

—John 20:27-29 (ESV)

2. Jesus **CLAIMED** to be God

3. The Resurrection **PROVES** that Jesus is God

Three Historical Facts that Verify the Resurrection of Jesus:

1. The Explosive **GROWTH** of Christianity

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.
—Acts 2:32 (ESV)

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
—Acts 2:41 (ESV)

But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.
—Acts 4:4 (ESV)

“For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms.”

—Pliny the Younger

2. The **DEATH** of Many First Century Christians

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
—Acts 7:59-60 (ESV)

“Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed,

stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished.”

—Pliny the Younger

3. The Radical TRANSFORMATION of People

For not even his brothers believed in him.

—John 7:5 (ESV)

But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.

—Galatians 1:19 (ESV)

“Calling forth the members of the Sanhedrin, he brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, and others with him. He accused them of violating the law, and ordered that they should be put to death by stoning.”

—Flavius Josephus

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

—1 Corinthians 15:7 (ESV)

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

—C.S. Lewis