

Jesus is one of the most controversial figures in history. His identity is what separates all world religions. Some religions claim He is just a good man and a prophet, others say He is a created being; still others say He is the Son of God. Every major religion acknowledges Jesus; however, not all are right about who He is. **If you are seeking the truth, the beginning point of your search should be to know Jesus' accurate identity according to the Bible.**

There is a common belief that all religions are the same; that we all worship the same God. That simply isn't true. In John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **Jesus is THE WAY -- not a way.** Due to that fact, it is imperative to know the truth about Him.

Many people today refer to Jesus as being the Son of God. This statement is Biblically correct. Unfortunately, many religious groups acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, but they mean something different. When you question them further, you find they believe He is a created being of some sort. In today's spiritual climate, it is incomplete to only say Jesus is the Son of God. To clearly convey what the Bible says about Jesus, we must recognize Him as GOD IN THE FLESH. This statement clearly distinguishes the core of your belief.

1 John 2:22-23 reads: *"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? ... Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either."* John 4:25-26 states the titles Christ and Messiah are synonymous. Jesus was telling the woman at the well that He was the

Messiah. In the Old Testament the Messiah's deity was foretold. Isaiah 7:14 tells us "the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call his name Immanuel." In Matthew 1:23 we learn the word Immanuel means GOD WITH US. The child was to be called MIGHTY GOD according to Isaiah 9:6-7. In John 5:18 and 10:33 the Jews clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be deity. In John 8:58 Jesus referred to Himself as "I Am" -- the same term that God used for Himself when He talked to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). Acts 20:28 says God purchased the church with His own blood. That could be true only if Jesus is God.

In the Gospels several incidents reaffirm His deity. In Mark 2:5-7 **Jesus forgave sins**, in Matthew 12:25 and also Luke 6:8 **He knew people's thoughts. He exhibited power over nature** in Luke 8:24 and Matthew 14:25. Exodus 34:14 states we are commanded to *"worship no other god."* **Jesus received and approved of others worshipping Him** (Matthew 14:33, John 9:38). All these were powers and prerogatives belonging only to God!

Finally, in John 2:18-22 Jesus made the most astounding prediction of all time. He prophesied that His body would be destroyed (crucified), but in three days HE WOULD RAISE HIMSELF FROM THE DEAD! All four Gospels describe the resurrection. Jesus fulfilled His prophetic statement, something only God can do!

Jesus clearly claimed to be God in the flesh. This means He was either a lunatic of epic proportions, or He is God! There is no middle ground. **If Jesus is who He claimed to be, there is nothing more important than**

receiving Him as our Savior (John 1:12). First, we must acknowledge His deity, why He had to die on the cross, and His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Next, we must recognize we are sinners (Romans 3:23) and need God to redeem us from our sin (1 Peter 1:18-19, 3:18). Then, we must ask Jesus to come into our life (Revelation 3:20). We receive Christ by faith because salvation is a free gift that is received by His grace (Ephesians 2:8-9).

If you sincerely believe and want Jesus to forgive you and come into your life, pray similarly to the following:

*Jesus, I believe You are God in the flesh and that You died on the cross for my sins and rose again the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior. Thank You for saving me.
In Jesus' name, amen.*

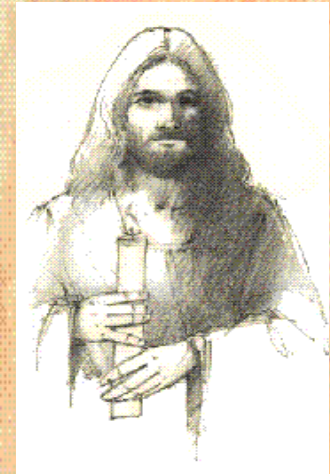
If you prayed this prayer with all sincerity, you now know God has forgiven all your sins (Ephesians 1:7). You now have assurance of eternal life (John 3:36, 5:24, and 6:47). You also know that Jesus will help you to change whatever needs changing in your life so that you may become a reflection of Him (Philippians 4:13). God bless you.

Chaplain Don Anderson

PO Box 120634
Arlington, TX 76012
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WHO IS JESUS?

YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY DEPENDS ON
HOW YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION



by Don Anderson