

Week 7 | Jesus

Who is Jesus?

What makes Christianity _____? What makes Christianity distinct from all the other religions? We don't just believe Jesus was a good man or great teacher or prophet, we believe Jesus was and is ____.

C.S. Lewis quote from "Mere Christianity"...

"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 patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher."

If we hold the Bible to be true, we must also hold to the belief that Jesus is indeed _____. Jesus, and God's Word never gave us another option.

In John 10:30, Jesus is recorded as saying, *"I and the Father are one."* That is why the Jews wanted to stone him, as they said in v. 33, *"you, being a man, make yourself God."* Jesus also stated in John 8:58, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*

The biblical authors also understood that Jesus is God. John said in John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

Paul says of Him in Titus 2:13, *"waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"*.

So we know who Jesus is, He is God. But... What does Jesus ____? In answering the question, let's break it up into three different aspects: Before His incarnation, His incarnation, and His post-ascension.

Incarnation means "____". So, before Jesus came in the flesh, 2,000 years ago, what did He do?

Jesus was involved in the c_____ of all things. John 1:3 says, *"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

And Hebrews 1:2 puts it this way, *"but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through who also he created the world."*

In addition to creating the world, Jesus helped I_____ God's chosen people, the Israelites, during Old Testament times.

In this ministry, He served as Messenger to the people (Genesis 16; 22; 31). He also g_____ and p_____ Israel (Exodus 14; 23; 2 Kings 19).

Let's move on to the incarnation. John 1:14 says, *"And the Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

J.I. Packer called the incarnation the "supreme mystery", how a holy God could be joined with sinful humanity and yet there be no presence of sin.

Jesus possessed _____, in that He was born from a _____; yet still possessed His _____, for it was a _____, and therefore, the sinful "seed of Adam" was not passed onto Him.



Whole Group Discussion

What do other religions say about Jesus? What separates Christianity from all these other religions?

John 14:6 says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." How do the words of Jesus clash with our cultures value of inclusivity?

So let's take some time looking at the primary reasons Jesus came to earth. First of all, Jesus came to r_____ God to us and give us an e_____ on how to live.

Jesus came to be the needed s_____ for sin. The punishment for sin was death. He became that death for us.

Jesus came to d_____ the work of the devil. 1 John 3:8 says, *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."*

The last words Jesus spoke on earth...

"'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:8-11

So the question is, while we wait for His return... what is He doing? First of all, Jesus is serving as _____ of His church (Ephesians 1:20-23).

Jesus is also serving as our _____ before God (Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16; 7:25). This means that He is interceding on our behalf before God when we pray.

And best of all, Jesus will someday return and forever be our K_____ of k_____ and L_____ of I_____ (Revelation 19:11-21). What a Savior. From Author of Creation to Suffering Servant to King of Kings.



Small Group Discussion

Do you learn anything new about Jesus in this session? If so, what?

Read Colossians 1:15-23. What are some of the descriptions of who Jesus is in this passage? What should the result(s) be in our lives, in light of them?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What were some of the ways that Jesus was tempted like us? How are these verses a source of encouragement in your prayer life? In your battle against sin?



Prayer Focus

Is Jesus truly the “Lead Pastor” of your life right now? What are some things you need to release to His control? Take time praying for these areas.