

The Man Jesus Christ Claimed To Be God, Why Should We Believe Him?

Among the religious leaders who have attained a large following throughout the history of humanity, Jesus Christ is unique in the fact that He alone claimed to be God in human flesh.

It is a common misconception that some other religious leaders have made the same claim.

Buddha did **not** claim to be God.

Moses **never** said he was Yahweh.

Muhammad did **not** identify himself as Allah.

Nowhere will you find Zoroaster claiming to be Ahura Mazda.

John 14:9-11 [NIV] *“Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?** The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”*

Here was a carpenter from Nazareth telling Philip if he had seen him, Jesus, he had seen the Father God.

Jesus gives one of the proofs, but not the major one, the miracles He had done.

Jesus made other various claims, all of which pointed to Him being God.

John 8:58 [NIV] *“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I am!**”*

Although only 30+ years old, Jesus claimed to exist before Abraham as the great “I am.”

Exodus 3:14 [NIV] *“God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM has sent me to you.**’”*

Jesus was applying the very name of the Holy God to Himself, I am. The Jewish leaders rightly called this blasphemy, if Jesus was not God!

John 5:17-18 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.” For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God.**”*

Jesus claimed to be equal to the Father God.

Mark 2:5-7 [NIV] *“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**”*

The Jewish leaders were right again to call this blasphemy, if Jesus was **not** God.

Isaiah 43:25 [NIV] *“**I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**”*

The Christian Bible confirms that only God can forgive sins, no human being.

John 1:1-3, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Jesus is equated as the Creator of all things, as the Word Who is God.

Colossians 1:17 [NIV] *“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

Jesus is also the One who holds all creation together, if He was not doing this everything that exists would return to its original state, non-existence.

Today many doubt this claim that Jesus made, among them sceptics who refuse to examine the evidence.

This claim also separates Jesus Christ from all other religious leaders in another way.

In the major religions of the world, the teaching is all important, not the teacher.

Confucianism is a set of teachings, Confucius is **not** important.

Islam is the revelation of Allah, Muhammad is **only** the prophet bringing those teachings.

Buddhism emphasises the principles of the Buddha, **not** Buddha himself.

Hinduism is teachings **without** a historic founder.

Christianity however centres on the person of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, or Saviour.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus did not just claim to be teaching what was true, but claimed to be the truth personally.

What Jesus taught is **not** the important aspect of Christianity. What is important is who Jesus Christ was, the Son of God, and that it is only through Him that we can have a relationship with God the Father.

Suppose the Prime Minister went on television and claimed he was God, and that he had the power to forgive your sins.

He would be quickly and quietly shut off the air, led away to a certain place of retention and the Deputy Prime Minister would take their place.

Anybody who would dare to make such claims as Jesus did, would have to be out of their mind or a liar, unless they were God!

This is exactly the case with Jesus Christ of the Christian Bible.

If Jesus Christ is God as He claims we should believe Him or if He is not we should have nothing to do with Him.

The Christian Bible records various reasons why we should believe Jesus was who He claimed to be.

Miracles:

John 20:30-31 [NIV] *“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

Fulfilled prophecy:- The birth, life, death of Jesus is prophesied, many 100s of years before He became a human being, in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.

His resurrection:-

John 2:19-22 [NIV] *“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.”*

The main sign that Jesus was God is the ability to raise His life back from the dead.

This separates Jesus Christ, not only from other religious leaders, but also any other human being who ever lived.

Philippians 2:5-10 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,”*

Jesus Christ the human who walked the earth was always at the same time God, the Word through Whom all things were created and who was the source of all life.

Anyone wishing to refute the claim of Jesus Christ must explain away the well-documented record of His predicted resurrection from the dead.

Romans 1:1-4 [NIV] *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Paul was totally convinced in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul’s encounter with the resurrected Jesus Christ changed the direction and goal of his life dramatically.

The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus Christ did rise from the grave, and it is the fact that proves that Jesus’ claim He is God is true.

John 6:51-69 [NIV] *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live for ever.” He*

said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. **On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"** Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. **The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.** Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." **From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.** "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

We all need to follow the example of Peter and feed on the spiritual words of Jesus Christ, the Word and believe He is the Son of God, and receive the gift from Him of eternal life in His presence and that of the Father.