

THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST

Some claim that Jesus is not the Son of God, but instead, a created being (this belief is called Arianism), and some claim that Jesus never actually believed himself to be God. Mormons believe that Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer, Jehovah's Witnesses believe Jesus is the archangel Michael, New Agers believe Jesus is an avatar or an enlightened messenger. **Jesus, however, claimed that He is God.**

The whole idea of the Christian faith is built on the belief that Jesus has a positively unique identity— that he was, in fact, totally unlike any prophet, priest, or preacher who had ever lived or would ever live afterward— that he was the Son of God.

Others have led men toward God, others have had compassion for the poor and disenfranchised, others have courageously refused to compromise and spoken boldly against abusers, even when it brought persecution or death. But the New Testament asserts that there is still no one even in Jesus' league! The claim is remarkable, and is made about no other religious leader in the history of the world (not Mohammed, Buddha, Zoroaster, etc.).

LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE DIRECT CLAIMS OF CHRIST, CLAIMS THAT JESUS HIMSELF MADE. . .

Equality with the Father

- John 10:29-33
- John 5:17-18

I AM

- John 8:58
- *"That we must also understand the expression 'I am' (eimi) as intended to declare the full deity of Christ is clear from the fact that Jesus did not attempt an explanation. He did not try to convince the Jews that they had misunderstood Him, but rather He repeated the statement several times on various occasions."* - A.G. Campbell
- Jesus claimed: I AM the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection of the Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the One True Vine.

Jesus is Due the Same Honor as That Given to the Father

- John 5:23-24

To Know Jesus is to Know the Father

- John 8:19

He Who Has Seen Jesus Has Seen the Father

- John 14:8-9

NOW WE WILL LOOK AT SOME OF THE INDIRECT CLAIMS JESUS MADE. . .

Jesus Spoke with Authority

- Jesus took another step when he used the term “prophet” to refer to himself (Mark 6:1-5). He was aware of the way Jews used the term “prophet,” and he did not use it lightly (Luke 13:31-33, John 14:24).
- There was a difference in the way Jesus was a prophet. He did not say, “This is what the LORD says,” but instead he said things like, “I tell you the truth.” This is not shocking to our ears, but he was claiming to speak on his own truth and it would have been very shocking to his hearers (The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7).
- Jesus also claimed that his words were eternal (Mark 13:31).

Jesus Focused on Himself

- He is the key to salvation (John 8:24).
- His death and blood would bring salvation to many (Matthew 26:27-28).
- He said taught that to be worthy of him people needed to love him more than their own father, mother, son and daughter, and to take up their cross and follow him. He taught that they must lose their own life for his sake (Matthew 10:37-29).
- He taught that if you leave everything for HIS sake that you will receive one hundred times as and much and inherit eternal life (Matthew 19:29).
- He claimed to be THE way, THE truth, and THE life (John 14:6).
- He called people to himself for rest and refuge (Matthew 11:28-30). In the Old Testament the people were called to God for rest and refuge (Isaiah 27:5, 55:3).

NOW LET’S LOOK AT SOME OF THE ACTIONS OF CHRIST, WHICH ARE CLAIMS IN THEMSELVES. . .

Jesus Forgave Sins

- Mark 2:3-7
- Jesus forgave sins which is something that only God had the authority to do. For example, the U.S. Treasury Department prints money and the Federal Reserve Banks distribute it. What if I started to print money and distribute U.S. currency? People would say, “You don’t have the authority to print and distribute money.”
- Since all sin is really against God, the only one who can forgive sins is God. When Jesus forgives sins he is essentially claiming that the sins are against him and he therefore has the authority to forgive them.

Jesus Received Worship as God and Accepted It

- John 9:35-39
- Matthew 14:33
- Contrast these scriptures with Acts 10:25-28
- Contrast these scriptures with Paul and Barnabas, Acts 14:11-15
- Even Angels did not accept praise in Revelation 19:9-10, 22:8-9

The conclusion is this: Jesus certainly claimed to be God. What is the appropriate response to that? Love, faith, and obedience!