

The Christ of Christianity (Part One)

The Scriptures portray the person of Jesus Christ as being 100 percent God while at the same time being 100 percent man. For some people, especially mathematicians, this characterization simply does not compute ($100\% + 100\% = 100\%$?). And yet to be the exact representation of God, Christ had to be fully God. To be understood by man, He had to be fully man. It is however, the fact that he claimed to be God that we must be compelled to either accept or reject Him- there is no other option. If Jesus is God, then we must accept and worship Him as such. If He is not God, then we must reject Him as either a liar or a madman. We will see that He gave no middle ground. In Matthew 16:13, Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do people say that I am?". Today, 2000 years later, who do people say that Jesus is?

Who is Jesus Christ?

A. He is fully man

1. He got tired (John 4:6)
2. He got thirsty (John 4:7)
3. He wept (John 11:35)
4. He tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)
5. He empathizes with us (Hebrews 4:14-16)

B. He is fully God

What Jesus said: "I am...."

- "The bread of life" (John 6:35, 48; cf. Exodus 16:4; 15,31)
- "The living bread that came down out heaven" (John 6:41, 51)
- "The light of the world" (John 8:12, 9:5)
- "The gate of the sheep" (John 10:7, 9)
- "The good shepherd" (John 10:11, 14)
- "The resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)
- "The teacher and Lord" (John 13:13)
- "The way, the truth and the life" (John 14:1-11)
- "The true vine" (John 15:1,5)
- "The alpha and the omega (Revelation 1:8)
- "WHO IAM" (John 8:24, 28, 58; cf. Exodus 3:14)

C. What others said

1. John the Disciple (John 1:1,14)
2. John the Baptist (John 1:29-34)
3. Simon Peter (Matthew 16:16)
4. Thomas (John 20:26-28)

D. Other Compelling Scriptures

1. "I and the Father are one" (John 10:27-30)
2. Jesus is "the exact representation of God"(Hebrews 1:1-8)
3. The "fullness of God dwells in bodily form" (Colossians 1:13-19, 2:9)
4. Our great God and Father,Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13)

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus turned the question to His Disciples: Who do YOU say that I am? In your experience who is Jesus Christ and what has He meant to you?

Excerpt from Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis, pp. 54-56

"Among these Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God. He claims to forgive sins. He says He has always existed. He says He is coming to judge the world at the end of time. Now let us get this clear. Among Pantheists, like the Indians, anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man,

since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of God. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world Who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever uttered by human lips. One part of the claim tends to slip past us unnoticed because we have heard it said so often that we no longer see what it amounts to. I mean the claim to forgive sins: any sins. Now unless the speaker is God, this is really so preposterous as to be comic. We can all understand how a man forgives offences against himself. You tread on my toe and I forgive you, you steal my money and I forgive you. But what should we make of a man, himself unrobbed and un trodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men's toes and stealing other men's money? Asinine fatuity is the kindest description we should give of his conduct. Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin. In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivaled by any other character in history. Yet (and this is the strange, significant thing) even His enemies, when they read the Gospels, do not usually get the impression of silliness and conceit. Still less do unprejudiced readers. Christ says that He is "humble and meek" and we believe Him; not noticing that, if He were merely a man, humility and meekness are the very last characteristics we could attribute to some of His sayings. 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 a 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."