

# Three Things About Jesus People Often Question

Sunday AM 04/24/22

## Introduction:

Last week a lot of people went to church because it was Easter Sunday. Despite this a lot of people question who Jesus was, His nature, His teachings, and His resurrection. In this lesson we want to look at what the scriptures, Jesus, and those around Him said about His deity, His humanity, and His resurrection.

### I) His Deity

#### A) Deity being to have the qualities of being eternal, all knowing, all powerful, ever present.

1. Modernist – he was either a “good man” or a deceiver.
  - a. Exposing many of the higher principles taught in the Law of Moses.
  - b. Or, a deceiver fooling many to follow Him, make sacrifices in His name, causing needless pain and suffering.
2. Jehovah Witnesses – Jesus was not deity in the sense of being eternal or equal with God but a lesser god.

#### B) Jesus and the Scriptures affirm His deity.

***John 1:1*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

1. Starts with the creation, ***Genesis 1.1***.
  - a. God’s role in the creation- all things were made through Him.
  - b. His pre-existence is clearly taught, He existed before His birth.

**John 8:58** Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." **59** Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

2. Jesus did that which only deity can do.

**Mark 2:5** When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." **6** And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

- a. Their assumption was correct- only deity can forgive sins.
- b. Jesus' miracle was to prove His ability to forgive sins.

**Mark 2:9** "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" --He said to the paralytic, **11** "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." **12** Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

3. Jesus called God His Father, meaning He possessed the attributes of The Father.

**John 17:20** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **21** "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. **22** "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: **23** "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. **24** "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

4. Jesus used the phrase "Son of God" and the inspired writers did so (all four Gospels).
  - a. **Mark 1:1** *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*
  - b. **Luke 22:70** *Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."*
  - c. **John 11:27** *She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*
5. Jesus received worship.

**John 9:38** *Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*

6. The scriptures affirm the eternal nature of Jesus.

**Revelation 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

C) We have to accept who Jesus was before His birth.

## II) His Humanity

A) Many question this part of Jesus.

1. Either question whether He was deity, or whether He was truly human.
2. Agnostics – humanity is so sinful, so corrupt, a pure and righteous God would never taken on the body of flesh.
3. Some question how can God be tempted and see a contradiction in passages.

**James 1:13** *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

**Hebrews 4:15** *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with*

*our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

4. How can deity die? But Jesus did die on the cross.

**Hebrews 2:17** *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

#### **B) The Scriptures Affirm His humanity.**

1. Jesus was Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:23** *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

2. He was born, was a boy, grew to be a man.
3. Referred to as Joseph's son, a carpenter's son. **Matthew 13.55.**
4. Exhibited the characteristics of humanity – hungered, thirst, needed rest, etc.
5. On the cross we see His humanity.
  - a. Was thirsty,

**John 19:28** *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*

- b. Died.

**John 19:33** *But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.*

- c. Bled

**John 19:34** *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

#### **III) His Resurrection and Ascension**

- A) This is a key element, which some doubt

1. Disciples stole His body, He wasn't dead, they went to the wrong grave, they all hallucinated seeing Jesus.
2. There was a cover-up.

**Matthew 28:11** *Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' 14 "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

3. Why have a cover-up if any of the explanations could be proven true?

#### **B) Proof of His resurrection.**

1. The empty grave.
2. Disciples seeing and talking to Jesus.
  - a. Mary Magdalene, **Mark 16:9** *Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.*
  - b. To the disciples in Galilee, **Matt. 28.10; John 21.1ff**
  - c. To 500 people at one time, **1 Cor. 15.6-7**
  - d. The two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, **Luke 24.13-32**
  - e. To the disciples when Thomas was not present, **John 20.19ff**
  - f. Eight days later when Thomas was present, **John 20. 26ff.**
3. His ascension into heaven.

***Acts 1:9*** ***Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.***

4. Consider this fact- these people never recanted their testimony, never contradicted one another, all died for this cause.

a. Quote from Charles Colson

“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.”

**Conclusion:**

We must believe Jesus to be the Son of God, who came down and died for you and me, was raised from the grave, and is now at the right hand of God.