

QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS

I. Who Was Jesus?

It is not sufficient to have a warm, positive, affirming feeling towards Jesus. One must have correct understanding and belief. Similarly, Jesus' humanity is important. First John was written to combat the teachings of some who said that Jesus had not really become human. These "docetists" maintain that Jesus' humanity was merely an apparition with no physical substance – with the illusion of material form.

They say:

1. He was not really tempted as we are.
2. He could not be our substitute.

OBJECTION: Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

II. Jesus' Humanity

A. His Development – Jesus went through all the normal process of development.

1. Matt. 1:18,20 – He was conceived in His mother's womb
2. Lk. 2:6,7 – He was born of a woman/carried full term
3. Lk. 2:40-52 – His growth was normal; developed physically, mentally and emotionally

B. His Affections – Jesus displayed all of the traits of humanity in His needs.

1. Physical & Psychological Limitations – hungered (Matt. 4:2); thirsted (Jn. 19:28); became tired (Mk. 4:38; Jn 4:6); dismayed (Matt. 26:36, 40-41)
2. Emotionally – sorrowful (Matt. 26:38); wept (Jn. 11:35); tempted (Matt. 1:1-11)

C. His Death – Jesus died a human death

1. His death was witness by many people including John, a small group of women followers, the soldiers and the mocking crowd (Lk. 23:48,49; Jn. 19:25-27)
2. His death was confirmed by professional executioners (Jn. 19:32-34) {Spear thrust – blood and water mingled indicating he had already died}
3. He was buried in accordance with the customs of the time and placed in a grave (Jn. 19:38-41)

III. Who Did Jesus Claim To Be?

A. Jehovah

John 8:52,53,56-58

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

B. Equal w/God

John 5:18

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Philippians 2:6-8

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

C. Messiah

Mark 14:62

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

D. Equal authority w/God

Matthew 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

E. Accepts Worship

Matthew 28:17

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

F. Prayer in His Name

John 14:13-14

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

G. Kingship

John 18:33-36

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

IV. What Claims Did The Disciples Make About Jesus?

A. Titles of Deity – Rev. 1:17 “...*Fear not: I am the first and the last*”

B. Lordship – John 20:27-28 “*Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*”

C. Possessed Powers of God – Col. 1:16-17 “...*all things were created by him, and got him. And by him all things consist.*”

D. Associated w/God – Gal. 1:3 “*Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

E. Prayed to Jesus – Acts 7:59 “*And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*”

F. Called God – Titus 2:13 “*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*”

G. Superior to Angels – Hebrews 1:6 “*And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*”

V. What Evidence Did Jesus Give To Support His Claims (*Position*)?

A. Jesus offered three lines of miraculous evidence to confirm His claims to be God.

- a. His fulfillment of prophecy
- b. His sinless life
- c. His miraculous deeds
- d. His resurrection

B. Messianic Prophecies Confirming Jesus Christ (Handout)
Clarifying Christianity

C. Sinless Life – Some of Jesus’ enemies brought false accusation against Him, but the verdict of Pilate at the trial has been the verdict of history: “*I find no fault in this Man.*” (Lk. 23:4) (Heb. 4:15)

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

D. Resurrection – No one miracle has as much historical evidence to confirm it.

1. In His resurrection, He appeared to more than 500 of His brethren on at least eight different occasions over a forty-day period.
2. The fact that both the Old Testament and Jesus Himself predicted that He would rise from the dead makes this miracle even stronger in its significance.

**** 1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

11 Resurrection Appearances

- Mary Magdalene – Jn 20:11
- Seven Apostles – Jn 21
- Other women – Matt 28:9,10
- Apostles – Matt 28:16-20/Acts 1:4-9
- Peter – Lk 24:34
- 500 Brethren – 1 Cor 15:6
- Two Disciples – Lk 24:13-32
- James – 1 Cor 15:7
- Ten Apostles – Lk 24:33-49
- Paul – 1 Cor 15:8
- Thomas/Apostles Jn 20:26-30