

“In the whole history of the world, there is only one person who not only claimed to be God himself but also got enormous numbers of people to believe it. Only Jesus combines claims of divinity with the most beautiful life of humanity.

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... If a man has come into history claiming to have the gift of eternal life and the key to the meaning of things, and if he has not passed into obscurity like other claimants but has convinced many people that he is right, it seems unwise not to make inquiries.”

— *Tim Keller, Making Sense of God*

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Common answers to the question,
“Is Jesus Really God?”

- **Leader**

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Jesus claimed to do what only God can do

John 3 – Authority to judge the world

John 5 – Lord of the sabbath

John 6 – Authority to forgive sins

John 8 – Perfect/Sinless

John 11 – Authority over death

John 14 – Truth, The source of truth

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Jesus claimed to be God

Son of God

Son of Man

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¹³"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

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¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

Daniel 7:13-14

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Jesus claimed to be God

Son of God

Son of Man

I AM – John 4:26, 6:20, 8:24, 8:28, 8:58, 18:5

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¹³Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 3:13-14

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“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.

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He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. ... 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.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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Common answers to the question,
“Is Jesus Really God?”

- **Leader**
- **Legend**

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Problems with the “Legend” argument

1. Eyewitnesses
2. The unity of the Early Church
3. If they did change the story, they would have changed more

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“The claims of Jesus’s identity, as that of a Yahweh-God and that he should receive worship, the notion of the crucified messiah, the concept of an individual resurrection, the dullness of the disciples, the unsavory crowd Jesus attracted ...

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Christians had every incentive to play down or eliminate all these issues from the Gospels, but instead they are prominent in the texts. This makes it highly unlikely that the stories are legendary, shaped for the Christian community's needs.”

**— *Paul Eddy & Gregory Boyd,
The Jesus Legend***

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Common answers to the question,
“Is Jesus Really God?”

- **Leader**
- **Legend**
- **Liar/Lunatic**

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³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

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The Resurrection

1. Jesus and the Eyewitnesses

– **Richard Bauckham**

2. The Resurrection of the Son of God

– **N.T. Wright**

3. The Jesus Legend

– **Paul Eddy & Gregory Boyd**

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**“I sympathize with the person who says,
‘The resurrection just couldn’t happen.’
Let’s not forget, however, that first-century
people felt exactly the same way. They
found the resurrection just as inconceivable
as you do. The only way anyone embraced
the resurrection back then was by letting
the evidence change their worldview,**

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their view of what was possible. They had just as much trouble with the claims of the resurrection as you, yet the evidence – both eyewitness accounts and the changed lives of Christ’s followers – was overwhelming.”

– *Tim Keller, The Reason for God*

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Common answers to the question,
“Is Jesus Really God?”

- **Leader**
- **Legend**
- **Liar/Lunatic**
- **Lord**

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**“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”
They went out of the town and were coming to him.**

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The love of God is overwhelming

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“Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. ... If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly.

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And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear.

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**Worship your intellect, being seen as smart,
you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud,
always on the verge of being found out.”**

**— *David Foster Wallace*
*This Is Water***

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The love of God is overwhelming
The love of God is never-ending

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**The hour is coming = The Crucifixion
(John 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17)**

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“I thirst.” — *John 19:28*

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The love of God is overwhelming
The love of God is never-ending
The love of God is reckless

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