

**The question that was asked of Peter rolls around in my head. "Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**Wow could you image that Jesus Himself standing in front of you and asking YOU, "Who do you say that I am?"**

**WOW could you answer that with a heartfelt, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God?**

**Matthew 16:13-17 (NKJV)** When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" <sup>14</sup> So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> **Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

**Even in this day and time that question can still get different answers.**

Everything a person believes is based on the revelation they have of Him.

There are so many different Religions in the world today. But Jesus made such an impact that most religions have something to say about him. Is Jesus central to their faith? Let's look:

#### **WHAT OTHER RELIGIONS SAY ABOUT JESUS**

1) ISLAM- Isa Ibn Maryam is known as Jesus in the New Testament and is considered a messenger of God. ***Jesus was born of the virgin Mary*** according to the Qur'an. ***Jesus was not killed on the cross but raised up to Heaven by God.*** Jesus considered himself Muslim and taught the straight way. He is not the greatest prophet, that honor going to Muhammed. **Jesus is not considered God but a prophet of God.**

2) HINDUISM- Ishu, who was born in a cowshed, ***was visited by three holy men, performed many amazing miracles, walked on water and spoke a wonderful sermon on a mountain.*** Ishu being Jesus in Hinduism. Jesus is seen as much more, as an Avatar, specifically a Shaktavesha Avatar or an empowered incarnation. This means that God has sent Jesus for a specific mission to fulfill God's will on earth. They believe that Jesus was murdered but he did not resurrect but reincarnated. ***Jesus is not considered God but an Avatar.***

3) JUDAISM- Yeshua was one of many false messiahs in Judaism. Yeshua being the Hebrew name for Jesus. They do give Jesus the distinction of being the most damaging of all false messiahs. The Jewish leaders had Jesus killed but not for claiming to be the messiah. Jesus claimed to be God (Jn 10:30; Lk 22:70; Jn 8:56-58), blasphemy to the Jews. ***Judaism taught that no one outside the Father could be worshiped less they commit idolatry.*** They condemned Jesus on the charges of blasphemy. Jesus was a false messiah and a miscreant according to Judaism.

4) BUDDHISM- Buddhism is considered a philosophical approach to life more than a religion. It has little intersection with Christianity and very little to say about Jesus. ***Some modern Buddhists have said that Jesus was Buddha reincarnated. There have been several Buddhists who have drawn parallels between Jesus and Buddha's teachings.*** Without the need for faith or any real belief system, Buddhism recognizes ***Jesus as an enlightened man with great influence but not divine.***

5) JEHOVAH WITNESS- JW has a lot to say about Jesus. ***Jesus was the firstborn of creation and not considered to be God.*** They reject the idea of the Trinity seeing it as polytheistic (more than one god). ***JWs' teach that Jesus pre-existent form in Heaven was as Michael, the Archangel.*** He took on human form for the purpose of setting people free from sin and death. Only a select few are really saved by being JW and doing certain good works. ***Jesus has no real power to save in that he is not divine.***

6) LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMONS)- LDS church desires to be viewed as a Christian denomination. They are adamant that they fit within the Christian worldview. So what do they believe about Jesus? According to LDS, ***Jesus was the son of God in Heaven along with his brother, Lucifer.*** Lucifer went the path of the devil and Jesus stayed faithful to His Father's calling. A precursory look of LDS belief on Jesus is comparable to Christianity's teachings about Jesus. The problem lies in what is not said but suggested. ***For example, LDS teach that all people are saved by the blood of Christ regardless of whether or not they put their trust in him.*** This is starkly in contrast to what the Bible teaches about salvation (Jn 14:6; Rmn 10:9-13; Mt 7:21) LDS holds to Universalism. ***They also teach that works and special rites as set by the LDS church determine your position in heaven.*** Achievement can result in LDS males being declared god over their own planet! There is no denying that there are many similarities between LDS and Christianity's belief on Jesus but the subtle differences make these two different faiths altogether.

7) SCIENTOLOGY- ***Jesus is recognized by scientologists as part of its early religious heritage.*** Scientology teaches that man is basically good at his core and he alone can free himself from the trappings of his mind. ***The idea that Jesus was God is considered fiction to Scientologists and comes from unenlightened minds.***

### ***What Did God Say About Himself?***

The mighty God of the universe calls Himself I AM. In Exodus 3:14, the Bible says, "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM" (KJV). Moses had said, "When I go down to Egypt and the people ask me who sent me, what shall I tell them" (Cf. Exodus 3:13). God said, "You tell them that I **AM sent you.**"

### ***What Jesus Said About Himself?***

Jesus completed the statement that was given to Moses. Seven times in the Gospel of John He uses the expression,

- **First, He said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger” (John 6:35).**
- **Second, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).**
- **Third, Jesus said, “I am the door” (John 10:9).**
- **Fourth, Jesus said, “I am the true vine” (John 15:1).**
- **Fifth, Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” (John 10:11).**
- **Sixth, Jesus said in John 11:25, “I am the resurrection and the life.”**
- **Seventh, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).**

A few thoughts we need to ponder:

1) What we believe about Jesus will determine our eternal destiny. *John 14:6- I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except by me.*

2) Most other religions recognize Jesus, but He must be declared as fully human and fully God or it is not the Jesus of the Bible (Col 1).

**Colossians 1:16-18 (NKJV)** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

3) Religions want to play nice with Jesus, but he must be made supreme or we do nothing but insult him (Phil 2:10).

**Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4) Every religion should be boiled down to what it believes about Jesus and then be measured by that in accordance with Scripture (Acts 4:12).

**Acts 4:12 (NKJV)** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

## ***What We Believe?***

We Christians believe that mankind was created specifically **to have a relationship with God**, but sin separates all men from God ([Romans 3:23](#); [5:12](#)).

Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ walked this earth, fully God, and yet fully man ([Philippians 2:6-11](#)), and died on the cross. Christians believe that after His death, Christ was buried, He rose again, and now lives at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for the believers forever ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).

Christianity proclaims that Jesus' death on the cross was sufficient to completely pay the sin debt owed by all men and this is what restores the broken relationship between God and man ([Hebrews 9:11-14](#); [10:10](#); [Romans 5:8](#); [6:23](#)).

Christianity teaches that in order to be saved and be granted entrance into heaven after death, one must place one's faith entirely in the finished work of Christ on the cross. If we believe that Christ died in our place and paid the price of our own sins, and rose again, then we are saved.

There is nothing that anyone can do to earn salvation. We cannot be "good enough" to please God on our own, because we are all sinners ([Isaiah 53:6](#); [64:6-7](#)). There is nothing more to be done, because Christ has done all the work! When He was on the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished" ([John 19:30](#)), meaning that the work of redemption was completed.

According to Christianity, salvation is freedom from the old sin nature and freedom to pursue a right relationship with God. Where we were once slaves to sin, we are now slaves to Christ ([Romans 6:15-22](#)).

As long as believers live on this earth in their sinful bodies, they will engage in a constant struggle with sin. However, Christians can have victory in the struggle with sin by studying and applying God's Word in their lives and being controlled by the Holy Spirit—that is, submitting to the Spirit's leading in everyday circumstances.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-58 (NKJV) Colossians 1:16-23 (NKJV)**