

CLAIM THE NAME... *Jesus*

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Introduction

Jesus cannot be reduced to his names or titles. He is far more! We are merely scratching the surface. But the scratches unfold such amazing beauty and power and authority of Jesus that even the scratches are wonderful beyond words!

Jesus Is GOD!

Nine different times in the New Testament the name God is used in referring to Jesus:

- John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:18: No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.
- John 20:28: Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
- Acts 20:28: Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
- Romans 9:5: Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.
- Titus 2:13: ...while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ
- 2 Peter 1:1: Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours.
- 1 John 5:20: We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
- Hebrews 1:8: But about the Son he says "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."

What do we know about Jesus' physical appearance?

Isaiah 53:2b: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

What was it about Jesus that caused so many to be attracted to him?

There were many who did not believe. After hearing Jesus declare that he was one with the Father:

The Jews who heard these words were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

²¹ But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" (**John 10:19-21**)

Jesus claimed to be one with the Father. Do you remember how Philip reacted when Jesus explained to him who he was? Jesus said to his disciples, "You know the way to the place where I am going."

John 14:6 - 9:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jesus claimed to be God, and he didn’t blink an eye; he didn’t whisper it; he made no bones about it. He and his Father were one, and when you see Jesus, you see God!

If that is true—and it is—what is the only acceptable response on our part?

We may look at those puzzled disciples who just don’t get who Jesus is and think they should know better. But remember where they were before the crucifixion. Their idea of who Messiah would be and what he would do was being turned upside down before their eyes. They were willing to settle for so much less than all that Jesus was and is.

Jesus is Fully God and Fully Human

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he had two distinct natures—divine and human—united in one person. Because he was both fully God and fully man, he experienced the limitations and weaknesses of human flesh.

Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Therefore, he is a qualified Savior—he had to be truly human in order to pay for the sins of humans, and he had to be truly divine in order to satisfy God’s requirements and secure our salvation.

Jesus was God and the Son of God

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

In first century Jewish culture, being the son of someone meant that you bore their exact likeness. Being called a particular man’s “son” also meant that you were like them in intangible ways, particularly their character and nature. That is why the Jews got so upset with Jesus when he called God his Father:

John 5:18: For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

When we call him Son of God, we are recognizing that he was not born of any earthly father; he was born without that sin nature.

“Son of God” does not mean that Jesus began—was birthed—in Bethlehem. He existed as God for all eternity past. He was not created.

Why is this truth—that *Jesus is and was God*—under assault and disbelief by so many?

Interestingly, other religions make a profession of believing in Jesus—but not as God. Religions that do not consider Jesus to be God include Judaism, Islam, and some so-Christian denominations—cults—like Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Christian Scientists and Unitarians. Some will go so far as to agree that he was the Son of God but not God.

Satan has opposed this truth from the beginning. There are many who believe Jesus was a good person, a teacher, a prophet—whatever—but they always fall short in believing that Jesus is God.

If Jesus is God, why did he pray to God?

1. *Jesus prayed because he depended on God his Father.*
He told us again and again that he came to do only what God the Father wanted him to do.
2. *Jesus prayed because he loved to have fellowship with his Father.*
3. *Jesus prayed to teach us how to pray.*

Jesus Is God because Jesus Is Good

Mark 10: 17 – 18: As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.”

Jesus Is Our Advocate

1 John 2:1 – 2: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

When we think of an advocate, we think of a defense lawyer who stands before a judge and jury and pleads our case. But that is not how it works with Jesus as our Advocate before God. When you first became a believer, the righteousness of Jesus was credited to you. You were justified once-for-all.

Romans 3:22 - 24: This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

John 10:28 – 29: I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.

You don’t need an Advocate with the Father in order to plead for your justification. That was done once and for all, if indeed you have been made a new creation in Christ through God’s incredible grace. Jesus’ case for us is not about us—how good we are, how innocent we are—because that would not be true. Rather it is grounded in the work he has done to secure a favorable verdict:

Romans 8:1 – 4: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

We know that we still sin after we accept Christ, and we continually need God’s forgiveness so that we can walk worthy of our calling. As we repent, Jesus advocates for us to be restored in fellowship with God. But he does not need to advocate for our salvation—that is settled.

Even now Jesus is pleading with the Father on your behalf, to strengthen you, that you will be purified and holy, to defeat the enemy’s attacks against you. Jesus advocates—pleads—for you based on his merit, not yours, and that carries a lot of weight with the Father.

Are you rejoicing that Jesus continues to advocate for you? Jesus, the Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, who is equal with God, indeed who is God—Jesus—goes before the Father and calls your name and advocates for you, like:

“Father, I’m here on behalf of _____ (put your name there). You know what she is facing; you know that she is trusting me for her eternal salvation, but she’s up against it right now. Father, I’m asking you to keep her faithful, to give her courage, to keep her from sinning. And I’m asking this for _____ because of what I have done for her to save her from her sins and give her eternal life with us.”

Conclusion

Jesus prayed:

John 17:3: Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

You and I have eternal life—now! It’s not just a destination we’re looking forward to. Eternal life begins with knowing God through Jesus Christ. When we set our life’s purpose and goal to know God through Jesus, then eternity grows within us, even here on this sin-cursed earth.