

“Who Do You Say He Is?”

Jesus asked his disciples many years ago: “Who do people say that I am?” (Mark 8:27). They responded by listing extraordinary figures in history, such as John the Baptist or Elijah. These answers by the disciples are like the claims of other religions today, and they mirror the same confusion. He is considered a miracle worker, a justice revolutionary, or a wise philosopher. A 2018 study by Ligonier and LifeWay Ministries reveals that 78 percent agreed that “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.” According to the study, Jesus was merely human.

Who do you say He is? Christians are not afraid to call Jesus “God”. But this does not mean that a first century man had a profound religious experience. God and humanity are different in kind, not degree. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, perfect in wisdom, power, holiness, and truth. But we are not infinite, eternal, or unchangeable. Neither are we perfect in wisdom, power, holiness, and truth. So, to call Jesus “God” has no real meaning unless we also acknowledge that we are not “God”.

Christians are not afraid to believe Jesus is God because the Scriptures reveal it. The gospel of John tells us that Jesus is the eternal “Word made flesh”. Jesus tells his disciples, “You trust in God; trust also in me.” Jesus acknowledges their trust in God and calls them to extend that faith to him because he is God. Lastly, just as the God of the Old Testament alone triumphs over the stormy sea (Ps. 65:7) and treads on its waters (Job 9:8), so Jesus calms the stormy seas and walks on water (Matt. 8:26; 14:25).

Who do you say that Jesus is? Do you think of him as a religious performer? Read the Scriptures again and ask, “Who does Jesus say he is?” Jesus tells us that he is the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13). He claims, “Before

Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). Jesus Christ is all that God is. If he was merely a religious performer, his declaration of forgiveness has no teeth. How secure are you? What if God disagrees?

Do you think of him as revealed in the Scriptures, as the eternal Son of God? The eternal Son of God took on flesh to save us from our sins. This is folly to those who do not have such faith; it is a joy to those who possess such faith. It delivers us from fear. While the world changes constantly, the eternal Son of God, made flesh for us and for our salvation, sits on the throne. Who do you say he is?

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