

## CCC WHAT ABOUT JESUS PART 3

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### The Only thing that matters starts today:

We have been in somewhat of a series called “Frequently Asked Questions”. A couple weeks ago I talked about heaven, that is the goal, that is the finish line we need to keep our eyes on living... then I talked about the reliability of the Bible and today I want to talk to you about Jesus. And next week we’ll conclude this series with speaking on evil. You won’t want to miss next week’s message on evil. Today as we talk about Jesus, even if you don’t believe in the Bible, we do know a few things about Jesus. We know that He existed, that He lived in the first century Palestine, that He had a group of followers, that He was convicted and crucified under Pontius Pilate and upon His death a

huge religious movement started. Those are facts that almost no serious historian will question or contest.

What I want to do is talk about Jesus from the Bible today.

What does the Bible teach about who Jesus is? There’s a lot of confusion out there about who He is and who He said He was. The first thing the Bible tells us is:

#### 1. Jesus was 100% human.

Some of you I know get your theology, or maybe I should say get your understanding of what you know about Jesus from what you’ve watched on television. So the first thing I want to do this morning is move away from the Hollywood’s image of Jesus to what the Bible says. In John 1:14 it says, “*So the Word [referring to Jesus] became human and lived here on earth among us.*” So we come up with... Jesus was 100% human.

People ask this question to me a lot, “What did Jesus look like?” My guess is He looked like what any first century Palestinian Jewish male who was a carpenter would have looked like. I'm sorry to those of you who would have liked a blond hair, blue eyed Brad Pitt type Jesus. But, that's just not the case.

What Jesus experienced on earth was what all of us experience – Why, because he was 100% human. That means He got hungry, that means He got tired, He was tempted in every way. He went to bed, He had to go to the bathroom, He got angry, He had to deal with pain and conflict in his life. He had finances and bills to pay. He had choice in front of Him all the time of what to do... He was surrounded by all sorts of problems and difficulties in His life. And He died a very real human death. He was human in every way yet He did not sin and that is the huge

difference between Jesus and you and I. Perfection. Not just a slight difference between me and Jesus but a huge one! He was perfection.

Here is a commonly asked question: Why is Jesus' humanity so important? Before Jesus... we could only know God partially... but when Jesus came we could know God fully. He was tangible, He was visible, He was touchable. The Bible says that Jesus was the visible expression of the invisible God. So in doing so He could fully identify with you and me. We could touch Him.

He could also fully identify with what you and I go through every day. Hebrew 4:15 “*This high priest of ours [Jesus] understands our weaknesses for He faced all the same temptations we do.*” Circle the words “understand” and the word “all”. He understands all. But then look at the “yet” – “*yet He did not sin.*” Every temptation you and

I go through Jesus understands. Why, because He went through those temptations as 100% human.

There's nothing you're ever going to go through that Jesus can't identify with. I may not be able to fully identify with you. But Jesus can...

Another thing is He had to be fully human so He could pay the price for our sins. 1 John 3:5 "*And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins for there is no sin in Him.*" Because He was human, His payment could be transferred to us as humans. Jesus was the perfect representative to pay for our sins. I tried to explain to my children one time. Jesus had to be human. If an armadillo was sacrificed for my sins that doesn't transfer to me. But a human does.

Jesus was 100% human.

2. The second thing I want you to know that the Bible teaches is that **Jesus was 100% God**.

Let's look at what Jesus was before He invaded earth.

John 1: 1-3 "*In the beginning the word [referring to Jesus] already existed. He was with God and He was God. He was in the beginning with God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that He didn't make.*" Jesus was 100% human and 100% God, and listen to this He was 100% human and 100% God - 100% of the time. Jesus wasn't a man who became a God. Nor was He God appearing to be a man. He combined in one personality the two natures. He was fully human and fully God.

Now, I realize that's tough to get your arms around. But think about it – when Jesus walked on earth He was fully human and He was fully God. How did Jesus prove to us He was God? Five points:

**1. Miracles.** In the New Testament there are dozens of miracles that Jesus performed. These miracles were done in broad daylight. Many of them were done right in front of skeptics. That was one of the ways He proved He was God.

**2. Eyewitnesses to His perfect life.** Eyewitnesses are very important when trying to prove something. There were eyewitnesses to Jesus' perfect life and His claim to be the Messiah. At Jesus' trial Pilate says this "I find no guilt in this man." The centurion at the cross said, "Certainly this man was innocent." The thief that hung on a cross next to Jesus: "This man has done nothing wrong." Those are people who saw it from a distance. But where it becomes very credible is from those closest to Jesus. Those who were around Him all the time. In the Bible John called Him, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Martha said,

"I have always believed You were the Messiah, the Son of God." At one point Jesus even asked, "Who do people say that I am?" Matthew 16 "*Jesus asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of man is?' 'Well,' they replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.'* Then He asked them, '*Who do you say that I am?*' Simon Peter answered, '*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*' Jesus replied, '*You are blessed, Simon, son of John, because My Father in heaven revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being* '"

When Peter said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of God," Jesus didn't say, "Whoa! Wait a second! You're taking this Messiah thing a little too far. I'm just a good person and a good teacher." No, Jesus didn't say that. He didn't stop them and say, "No, don't call Me the Son of

God. I'm just a good moral man.” No HE allowed them to call him the Son of God.

Another good point here is why is it that most of the disciples died a martyr's death? Because they believed He was the Messiah. They died a martyr's death because they believed. Eyewitnesses. They were there with Him all the time. You can fool people from a distance but you can't fool them up close.

Eyewitnesses proved Jesus was who He said He was.

The third point to prove Jesus was God is:

**3. Fulfillment of prophecy.** If you look in the Old Testament, there are several prophecies prophesying the Messiah, the Savior of the world. It was like in the Old Testament painting this fingerprint of what the Messiah is going to be like and who it's going to be. And Jesus came along and He fit that fingerprint. If you look at the life of

Jesus, His life is a checklist to the prophecies: born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, rejected by His own people, the Messiah to be betrayed by one of His own followers, the Messiah to die by crucifixion – the list goes on and on and on and these prophecies were written hundreds and thousand of years before Jesus.

That's one of the ways He proved He was God – fulfillment of prophecy.

**4. Jesus' own identification, His own claim.** Not only is He described in the Bible as the God-man but He makes the claim Himself in John 10:30. He says, *"I and the Father are one."* He didn't claim just to be God. He made a very specific claim – Messiah. You've got to deal with that. Is He whacked out or was He who He said He was? Because it was that claim that got Him killed.

**5. The other one was the resurrection.** In my opinion this is the deal-breaker! This is the biggie that separates Jesus from all the other religious leaders. He predicted it and He did it.

Before we get to point 3, I want to ask you to buckle up. This point will get a little wild and some of you will want to leave. Some of you are going to get angry. And again, I'm not teaching personal opinion, I'm teaching what the Bible says.

**3. The Bible says that Jesus is the only way to heaven.**

The only way. Sometimes people get ticked off at that one. They say “You’ve got me on the humanity thing Bill – He was human. And I even can understand the divinity thing some what. But the only way to heaven? I don’t buy that... That’s crazy! Isn’t that narrow minded,

bigoted, exclusive, intolerant statement and belief? Maybe Jesus is *a* way to heaven but not **the** way? It sounds so judgmental to say that Bill.”

If you’re not thinking what I just said let me assure you someone in and around your life is, your friends are, your neighbors are, maybe those in your family are or at work. Those on the outside of Christianity looking in are saying, “Maybe Jesus is *a* way to heaven but **the** way, I don’t think so?” See we live in a world that has many options for everything. We have all kinds of options. When it comes to truth this whole idea of *one way*, it really creates a stumbling block for people’s faith. And it’s surrounded by confusion, anger, misunderstanding.

Look what the Bible says in John 14, a bold statement made by Jesus. “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.*”

Those who have a pluralistic philosophy, this verse is tough to swallow. Pluralism kind of sees religion kind of like a kaleidoscope. You take all the religions and they're all kind of mixed together and there's no reason to really argue or resolve anything. Truth really doesn't conflict and all roads lead to God and just pick a road that leads to God and believe it sincerely enough and you will all end up at the same place. Friends that's a lie

Unfortunately there's a problem with that type of thinking that we will all end up at the same place. Sincerity doesn't have anything to do with what were talking about. When it comes to my opinion I can be wrong and I can be sincerely wrong..

I think Jesus knew this and that's why He said so boldly without any question "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one gets to the Father but through Me.*" He

doesn't say, "I am **a** way or I am **one** of the many valid options that you will have." No. He said, "I am *the* way." No other leader has made such a bold statement as that. I'll agree with some of the skeptics that at the surface this does sound like an exclusive comment. But as you dig a little bit deeper and you know the character of Jesus this wasn't said out of arrogance but out of compassion for you. It's God's desire that every person have a relationship with Him. The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9 "*God isn't late with His promise. He is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the end because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.*" All – everyone – all are invited into a relationship with God. God isn't exclusive of anyone but He is exclusive about Jesus. Basically all are welcome to come but Jesus is the only way.

That brings up another frequently asked question: Don't all religions basically teach the same thing? Really when you strip them away to their essentials aren't they all the same? That's an important question to have answered because if they are then you just choose any one. You just believe it because they're all the same. I think where people get confused is here. Under our constitution all religious viewpoints are equally protected and I totally agree with that right. Anybody can believe anything they want. I could start a church today with a new set of beliefs. I would call it the Church of the Bill. In the Church of the Bill I could have some beliefs that say if you want to be close to God, if you want to get to heaven, here's what you've got to do. You've got to Wendy's five times a week and while you're eating at Wendy's you need to be facing east. That is my belief. And I could lobby that

belief and that belief would be equally protected as well as Christianity is or any other belief for that matter.

The problem happens that when people jump to the conclusion that because different philosophies are equally protected that they must also be equally valid and equally true. And Friend's that's just not the case.

I've studied world religions – Buddhism, Hindu, Islam. I will say that there are some common grounds when it comes to values and morality. But every time I study world religions it always bottoms out for me with one word. Works. They all come down to works. You must work your way to heaven to be closer to God. It all about man kind trying to get to God. Through various means reincarnation, fasting for 30 days or whatever it might be. But it all comes down to works. They're all attempts by humans to get closer to God. But when Jesus

says, *“I am the way,”* He puts Christianity in a whole other category. Christianity is Jesus Christ as God reaching out to us. Not us having to earn our way to heaven. As a matter of fact Jesus taught the exact opposite of what other faiths teach. Jesus said nobody can earn their way to heaven so you might as well stop trying.

There is a difference “Other religious leaders say, ‘Follow me and I’ll show you how to find truth.’ Jesus says, ‘I am the truth.’ Other religious leaders say, ‘Follow me and I’ll show you the way to salvation.’ Jesus says, ‘I am the way to eternal life.’ Other religious leaders say, ‘Follow me and I’ll show you how you can become enlightened.’ Jesus says, ‘I am the light of the world.’ Other religious leaders say, ‘Follow me and I’ll show you the many doors that lead to God.’ Jesus says, ‘I am the door that leads to God.’”

The uniqueness of Christianity is rooted in the uniqueness of Jesus. So the ultimate answer to the question “Are all religions the same?” is no, they’re not. In Acts 4:12 the Bible teaches, *“There is salvation in no one else. There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.”*

I realize this is a lot of information I have given you so far today. This is the kind of series we’re in – Frequently Asked Questions. And I want to ask the question that I think is in your mind, So what does all of this mean to you? “Hey, Bill, that’s nice what you taught us today. The Bible says Jesus was 100% human and 100% God and He is the only way to heaven. So what? What does this mean for me today? In the 21<sup>st</sup> century... does this have any application at all to me?” I wanted to try to make these truths personal to you and give you some action steps,

some things to think about and act on. Whether you choose to act on them or not obviously that's your choice. But three action steps of Jesus being the way, the truth and the life.

### **1. Jesus is the way.**

Action step: Mourn for those without Jesus.

Matthew 9:36 says, "*When HE (Jesus) looked over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no Shepard.*"

### **2. Jesus is the truth.**

**Action step: Make the pursuit of truth a priority.**

Jesus said, "*Keep on asking, keep on looking and you will find. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened.*"

### **3. Jesus is the Life.**

**Action step: Move from a religion to a relationship.**

**Christianity is about a person.** It's not about a denomination. It's not about a church.

**Jesus is the instant and the intimate way to connect to God.**

**Where you see the word "religion" write "routine" next to it. Move from a routine to a relationship.**

Some of you in here are religious and church has become routine. God is just another one of those things you do on a weekly basis. That's the difference between religion and relationship. It's desiring to follow God and be part of what God is doing... not out of obligation... but out of desire. That's what a relationship is.

I want to encourage you to develop a relationship with Him that is growing, authentic, genuine and real. Move away from the trappings of routine and religion. Embrace Him as savior and friend. So that you and I might someday be

able to say with truth and passion what Paul said in  
Philippians 3 *“Yes, everything else is worthless when  
compared to the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my  
Lord.”*

Thanks for taking the time to listen and I want to  
encourage you to care about your spiritual journey and  
your life and your friends and your family who do and  
don't know Jesus. I want to close instead of saying a  
prayer with my words let me pray a prayer of blessing from  
God's word, the Bible to you... it comes out of 2 Peter 1.

*“May God bless you with His special favor and  
wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus our God and  
Lord better and better. As we know Jesus better and better  
His divine power gives us everything we need for living a  
godly life. He has called us to receive His own glory and  
goodness.” Amen*

## WHAT ABOUT JESUS?

### Frequently Asked Questions – Part 3

**1. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_**  
“So the Word [Jesus] became human and lived here on earth among us.” John 1:14

“This High Priest of ours [Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for He faced all the same temptations we do, yet He did not sin.”  
Hebrews 4:15

“And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, for there is no sin in Him.” 1 John 3:5

**2. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_**  
“In the beginning the Word [Jesus] already existed. He was with God and He was God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that He didn’t make.” John 1:1-3

- Miracles (Luke 7:22)
- Eyewitnesses to His perfect life (Matthew 16:13-17)
- Fulfillment of prophecy (Luke 24:44)
- Jesus’ own identification/claim (John 10:30)
- Resurrection (Mark 8:31, Acts 17:32)

**3. JESUS IS THE \_\_\_\_\_**  
“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

“God isn’t late with His promise ... He is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the End because He doesn’t want anyone lost. He’s giving everyone space and time to change.” 2 Peter 3:9 (The Message)

“There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.” Acts 4:12

## MAKING THESE TRUTHS PERSONAL

**1. JESUS IS THE WAY: \_\_\_\_\_**  
“When He [Jesus] looked over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.”  
Matthew 9:36 (The Message)

**2. JESUS IS THE TRUTH: \_\_\_\_\_**  
“Keep on asking... Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7

“The Jewish leaders surrounded Him and asked, ‘How long are You going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus replied, ‘I have already told you, and you don’t believe Me.’” John 10:24-25

**3. JESUS IS THE LIFE: \_\_\_\_\_**  
“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” Philippians 3:8

“May God bless you with His special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better. As we know Jesus better, His divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive His own glory and goodness.”  
2 Peter 1:2-3

Christianity is about a \_\_\_\_\_. It’s not about a denomination. It’s not about a church.

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ way to connect to God.

“Religion” = “\_\_\_\_\_”.  
Move from a routine to a relationship.