

Study 3

JESUS CHRIST

Our Lord Jesus Christ is and was truly God: that He was born into the world by a virgin; He lived a sinless life; He performed genuine miracles; died for our sin in our place; was resurrected bodily; ascended to the Father's right hand; will personally return in the future (Jn. 1:1; Matt. 1:18; 2Cor. 5:21; Acts 10:38; Rom. 6:10; Jn. 20:13-17; Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11).

In writing to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul warned them that it was possible to believe in “another” Jesus (2Cor. 11:4). Who we consider Jesus to be affects how we relate to God. If we consider Jesus to be the first of God’s creation, an angel, we can not be sure that his death on the cross was sufficient. We would therefore believe that we should add our works to earn our salvation since Christ’s death may not have been enough. But if we believe that Jesus was the uncreated, eternal Son of God who became a man, it changes everything!

1. Based on John 1:1, who is Jesus?

2. How does Philippians 2:6 identify Christ?

3. How does Titus 2:13 identify Jesus?

God is uncreated, eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and omni-present. Each of these descriptions apply to Jesus Christ. But many cults and false religions deny this. They claim that Jesus was a created being who was not “God” but rather was “a god”. This is the claim of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

4. Compare Isaiah 44:6 with Revelation 1:8. How does this help us to identify who Jesus is?
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Sometimes Jehovah’s Witnesses claim that the New Testament teaches that the Father is the only God based on Scriptures like First Corinthians 8:6.

5. Read First Corinthians 8:6. In what way is this verse actually claiming that both the Father *and* the Son are God?
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VIRGIN BIRTH

It appears that sin is somehow transmitted to the next generation via a father. Presumably then, the only way to give birth to a sinless child is to not involve a father either directly or indirectly.

“What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus had a real, earthly, biological father named Larry, and archaeologists find Larry’s tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing the Gospel writers threw in to appeal to the followers of the Mithra and Dionysian religious cults that were hugely popular at the time of Jesus, whose gods had virgin births? But what if as you study the origin of the word virgin, you discover that the word virgin in the gospel of Matthew actually comes from the book of Isaiah, and then you find out that in the Hebrew language at that time, the word virgin could mean several things. And what if you discover that in the first century being “born of a virgin” also referred to a child whose mother became pregnant the first time she had intercourse?”

Rob Bell. Velvet Elvis, p. 26

Rob Bell dismisses the Virgin Birth of Christ as a myth. To “Emerging Church” leaders, such as Bell, the idea of Christ having a Virgin Birth is unimportant. But Ps. Rob is wrong. If Christ was not born of a virgin, His claim to sinlessness is without warrant.

Although a core teaching of the Christian faith is the divinity and perfection of Jesus Christ, tens of millions of Christians do not accept that teaching. More than one-fifth (22%) strongly agreed that Jesus Christ sinned when He lived on earth, with an additional 17% agreeing somewhat. Holding the opposing view were 9% who disagreed somewhat and 46% who disagreed strongly. Six percent did not have an opinion on this matter.

Barna Research, April 10th 2009, [Web Report](#)

CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS

6. Note John 8:46, First Peter 2:22; Second Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; First John 3:5; Matthew 27:4, 23. What should these references lead the reader to conclude?
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Rob Bell is partially correct when he says that the Hebrew word translated “virgin” can also be translated “young woman”. But interestingly, in the Greek language, there is a specific word for *young woman* and another specific word for *virgin*.

7. Compare Isaiah 7:14 (from the Hebrew) Matthew 1:23 (written in Greek) which cites the Isaiah passage. In what way does Matthew give irrefutable support to the doctrine of Christ’s Virgin Birth?
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While Christ’s mother, Mary, was a blessed (Luke 1:42), she was not *deified* as a result of being Christ’s mother. Roman Catholics teach a doctrine relating to Mary called *Immaculate Conception*. It is the belief that Mary was sinless. Of course, if you are sinless, you don’t need a Saviour.

8. How did Mary regard God according to Luke 1:47?
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GENUINE MIRACLES

9. What undisputed miracle of Christ is recorded in John 9? Why does this miracle classify as “undisputed”?
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10. What undisputed miracle occurs in John 11 and why was it considered the greatest demonstration of Christ’s miraculous power?
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11. How did the Apostle Peter describe Christ to his Gentile audience in Acts 10:38?
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Christ’s Jewish audience demanded “signs” (miracles) from Jesus to prove His claims (John 6:30). Since Jesus was claiming to be divine (God) it was reasonable to expect then that He could do the *works of God* (miracles).

12. Read John 10:25, 37, 38. How did Jesus regard the role of miracles in His ministry?
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DIED FOR OUR SINS

Some people have claimed that Jesus died because He was misunderstood. Others claim that Jesus was killed because of religious jealousy. Yet others assert that Jesus was killed as an example of self-sacrifice.

13. Read First Corinthians 15:1-3 and note what this passage states was the reason Christ died-
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Every person has two alternatives when it comes to their sin. Either they reject God’s offer of forgiveness through Christ being our substitute, and pay an eternal price for their own sin, or, they accept God’s only offer of salvation from sin through receiving Christ as their Substitute.

14. Based on First Peter 2:24, how should the death of Christ for sins impact the way we behave?
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RESURRECTED BODILY

Some cults teach that Jesus did not rise from the dead physically. This, they assert, would be impossible. To which we respond: *Amen!* That's why the resurrection of Christ was a miracle!!! If Christ did not rise physically, He did not conquer death.

15. What did Paul say about the importance of Christ's resurrection in 1Cor. 15:14?
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16. How did Christ prove to Thomas that He was resurrected physically?
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ASCENDED TO THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

When the Bible describes Jesus as "ascended" into heaven (Jn. 20:17; Eph 4:8-10), it is not to be taken in a wooden literal sense as if Jesus flew like superman. It should be understood to mean that He was "translated" (transported in an instant) back to the dimension of heaven. In Acts 1:9, it says that Jesus was lifted up and then disappeared in the clouds. This demonstration of Christ's Lordship over gravity was also demonstrated when He walked on water.

By saying that Christ *ascended* to heaven, the New Testament is affirming His physical resurrection and His Lordship over, not only death, but everything! This is reinforced by the expression *at the Father's right hand* which is a way of saying that Christ is now positioned in the most prestigious and powerful place in the cosmos.

17. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What implications are there for the believer from Christ having ascended to the Father's right hand?
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PERSONAL RETURN IN THE FUTURE

The ancient Creeds of the Church affirm that Christ is now seated at the right hand of God, *from whence He shall come to judge...* Biblically, the expression, *the Lord is coming (on clouds)* is an expression describing God holding people to account, that is- *the Lord is coming to judge* (see: Psalm 96:13; 98:9; Isaiah 19:1; 40:10). Jesus used this same expression in Matthew 16:28. We understand this to mean the Lord's judgment upon Jerusalem which occurred in 70AD. But in Matthew 25 Jesus describes a final judgment- not merely upon the nation of Israel - but upon the whole world.

18. How should understanding the Lord's return as described in Matthew 25:31-46 affect the way we live?
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One day, in God's sovereign plan, Christ shall return. We don't when that will happen, but we can be certain what we should be doing while we wait! We should live to know Christ and live to make Christ known.

Amen.