

current sermon series

3 Questions

Is there just one true religion?

Was Jesus just a good teacher?

Does religion save?

Was Jesus just a good teacher?

Consider the source

Was Jesus just a good teacher?

Deity & Exclusivity of Christ

Source #1: The Life He Lived

- Birth/Incarnation

Luke 1:34-35

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Source #1: The Life He Lived

- Birth/Incarnation
- Baptism

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:34

And I have seen and have borne witness
that this is the Son of God.”

Source #1: The Life He Lived

- Birth/Incarnation
- Baptism
- Temptations

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Source #1: The Life He Lived

- Birth/Incarnation
- Baptism
- Temptations
- Ministry/Teaching

Matthew 22:37-40

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-40

⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

John 5:18

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Tim Keller: The Reason for God

The founders of every other major religion essentially came as teachers, not as saviors. They came to say: “Do this and you will find the divine.” But Jesus came essentially as a savior rather than a teacher (though he was that as well). Jesus says, “I am the divine come to you, to do what you could not do for yourselves.”

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Bread of Life

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Augustine:

*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it finds its
rest in Thee!*

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Bread of Life
- The Light of the World

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Bread of Life
- The Light of the World
- The Door (gate for the sheep)

John 10:9

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Bread of Life
- The Light of the World
- The Door (gate for the sheep)
- The Good Shepherd

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Bread of Life
- The Light of the World
- The Door (gate for the sheep)
- The Good Shepherd
- The Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Way, The Truth and The Life

John 14:6-7

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Source #2: The Claims He Made

7 “I AM” Statements of John’s Gospel:

- The Way, The Truth and The Life
- The Vine

John 15:1,5

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Source #3: Works He Displayed

- Miracles

Purpose of Miracles

To bring glory to God through works that could only be accomplished by God in order to exalt Jesus as the Son of God, validate his ministry & mission, and bring about belief!

Source #3: Works He Displayed

- Miracles
- Atoning Death

Source #3: Works He Displayed

- Miracles
- Atoning Death
- The resurrection

Tim Keller: The Reason for God

If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.

C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.”

C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity

He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet

C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity

and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”