

Lesson 10: The Deity of Christ

If Jesus did claim to be God, He was the only leader of a major world religion to do so.

I. Christ's Claims during His Ministry

A. He claimed to be the I AM of the Old Testament. (John 8)

- ✓ John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I AM."
- ✓ John 8:24: "If ye believe not that I AM *he*, ye shall die in your sins."

B. He claimed to be One with God the Father (John 10:30-33)

- Declaration by Jesus: "I and My Father are One."
- Response of the Jews: They took up stones to stone him.
- Why? "thou, being a man, makest thyself God."

C. Christ claimed to Possess Divine Attributes.

- Omnipresence (Matthew 18:20)
- Eternity (John 17:5, 24)

D. Christ claimed Power To Perform Divine Acts.

- ❖ To forgive sins (Mark 2:1-11)
- ❖ To resurrect those who believe in Him (John 6:40)
- ❖ To give eternal life (John 4:14 & John 10:27-28)

II. Christ's Claims at the Trial

The Question: Mark 14:61- "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

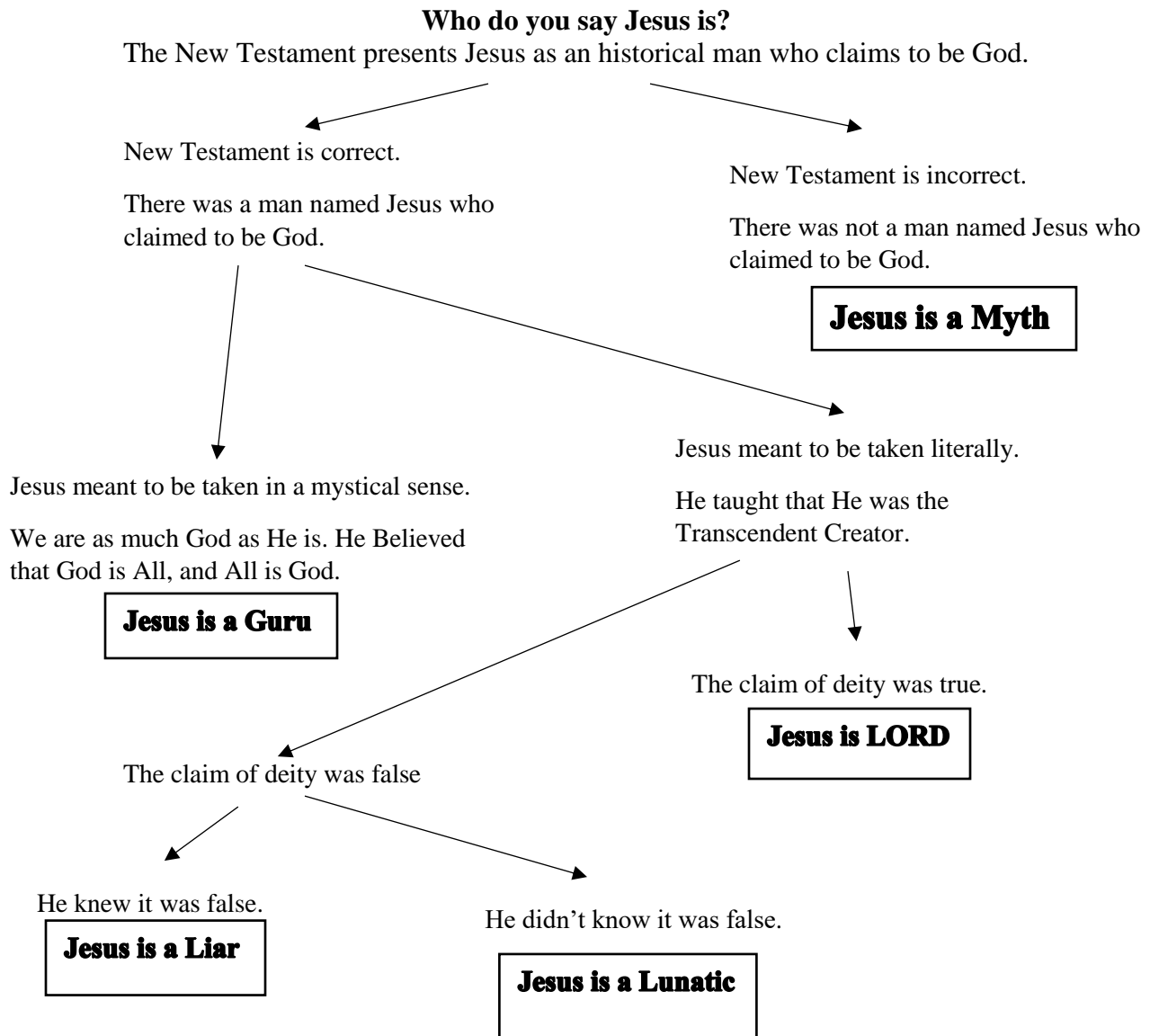
The Answer: Mark 14:62- "I Am"

- Jesus claims to be the Messiah. (Isaiah 9:6 & Jeremiah 23:6)

- Jesus claims to be the Son of God. (John 3:16)
- Jesus claims to be the Son of Man. (Mark 14:62 & Daniel 7:13-14)
 - “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.” Daniel 7:13

The Conviction: Jesus was not convicted for what He did or said He did. He was Convicted for who He said He was.

III. Conclusions: Jesus claimed to be God.



I. Why not Legend?

- The N.T. is historically reliable, confirmed by the Bibliographical Test, Internal Evidence, and External Evidence.
- The N.T. therefore gives an accurate picture of Jesus—what He did and what He said.

II. Why not a Guru?

- Jesus was a Jew raised in a strictly monotheistic culture.
- Jesus' teaching was not the teaching of an Eastern mystic, but that of a Jewish rabbi who believed in one transcendent Creator.
- “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. 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.” C. S. Lewis

III. Why not a Liar?

- According to Peter Kreeft, a Christian apologist, Jesus couldn't be a liar:
 1. “Because he has the wrong psychological profiles. He was unselfish, loving, caring, compassionate, and passionate about teaching truth and helping others to truth. Liars lie for selfish reasons, like money, fame, pleasure or power. Jesus gave up all worldly goods, and life itself.”
 2. “Because there is no conceivable motive for his lie. It brought him hatred, rejection, misunderstanding, persecution, torture and death.”

IV. Why not a Lunatic?

- Why Jesus could not have been a lunatic:
 1. “Because the psychological profiles are opposite. The lunatic lacks the very qualities that shine in Jesus- practical wisdom, tough love, and unpredictable creativity.”
 2. “No Jew could sincerely think he was God. No group in history was less likely to confuse the Creator with a creature than the Jews, the only people

who had an absolute, and absolutely clear, distinction between the divine and the human.”

V. **What is the Only Reasonable Option?**

➤ Jesus is Lord

Conclusions

Is The Bible The Word of God And Jesus The Only Way to Heaven?

Premise A:

The New Testament is historically accurate; it is a reliable and trustworthy document.

Premise B:

On the basis of this reliable document, we have sufficient evidence to believe that Jesus rose from the dead as He predicted He would, and that He fulfilled dozens of other Messianic prophecies.

Premise C:

Jesus’ resurrection and fulfillment of prophecy show that He was who He said He was: the Messiah, the Son of God—God in the flesh.

Premise D:

As the Son of God (God the Son), Jesus Christ is an infallible authority—What He says is absolutely trustworthy.

Premise E:

Jesus Christ taught that the Bible is the Word of God (Matt 5:18, 15:4; Mark 12:36; Luke 24:44–46). He also taught that He is the only way to God (John 14:6).

Conclusion:

If Christ said it, we must believe it. The Bible is the Word of God, and Jesus is the Only Way to God.