



Sermon

March 11, 2018

Jesus, The Eternal, Sovereign Creator

Matthew 9:1-8, John 1:1-15

**Pastor
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“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”



Introduction:

Younger Generations Are Increasingly Less Likely to Believe Jesus Was God

The historicity of Jesus may not be in question for most Americans, but people are much less confident in the divinity of Jesus. Most adults—not quite six in 10—believe Jesus was God (56%), while about one-quarter say he was only a religious or spiritual leader like Mohammed or the Buddha (26%). The remaining one in six say they aren't sure whether Jesus was divine (18%).

Millennials are the only generation among whom fewer than half believe Jesus was God (48%). About one-third of young adults (35%) say instead that Jesus was merely a religious or spiritual leader, while 17 percent aren't sure what he was.

In each older generation, the belief in Jesus as divine is more common—55 percent of Gen-Xers, 58 percent of Boomers and nearly two-thirds of Elders (62%) believe Jesus was God.

Matthew 9:1-8 NLT

Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ² Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.”

³ But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, “That’s blasphemy! Does he think he’s God?”

⁴ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk?’ ⁶ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

⁷ And the man jumped up and went home! ⁸ Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.

John 1:1-5 NLT

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.
The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

¹<https://www.barna.com/research/what-do-americans-believe-about-jesus-5-popular-beliefs/>

I. Jesus, the Eternal member of the Holy Trinity

Notes: _____

John 17:5

Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

Alistair Begg

There was a time when Jesus was God and not man, but there has never been a time when Jesus was man and not God.

II. Jesus, the full Expression of the Heart of God

Notes: _____

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.

Lee Strobel

"If Jesus is the Son of God, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher; they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life."

(continued on back page)

III. Jesus, the Exquisite Artist of the World

Notes: _____

John 1:14

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Dorothy Sayers

It makes sense humanity would be so creative because we are created in the Image of the Great Creator.

Conclusion:

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. 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 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."

Colossians 2:9

⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

Notes: _____
