

Blended

Why is the God of the Bible the source of Truth and not the God of (fill in the blank)?

Principle #3: Jesus Claimed He was God

- *Principle #1: The Bible claims that itself is true*
- *Principle #2: Jesus said God's Word was truth*
- Principle #3: Jesus claimed he was God

C.S. Lewis on Jesus' Claim to Be God

_____ – If he knew he wasn't telling the truth, Jesus could be accused to be a Liar. This doesn't appear to be the case as he was known to live a very moral life

_____ – If he thought he was God but wasn't, he was just off his rocker. This doesn't fit either. He made some of the most profound sayings in history.

_____ – If his claims were true, this is the final conclusion.

What we know this about Jesus:**1. He** _____

- Fed 5000 from scraps
- Healed a sick daughter
- Raised a dead man to life

2. He _____

His disciples spent 3 years with him and they said this about him:

- Peter: Jesus was "without blemish or spot."...He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth" - 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22
- John: "in Him there is no sin" - 1 John 3:5
- Paul: Jesus "knew no sin" - 2 Cor. 5:21
- Hebrews author: Jesus was "without sin" - Hebrews 4:15

3. He fulfilled over _____

about the Messiah (whom he claimed he was)

- Micah 5:2 – prediction of Bethlehem as the site of the birth of the Messiah
- Zechariah – 11:12-13 – prediction that the messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave – 30 pieces of silver according to Jewish law
- Isaiah 40:1-5 – coming of the Messiah would be preceded by a messenger – John the Baptist
- Isaiah 53:9 – he would be buried in a rich man's tomb – Joseph of Arimathea

4. He _____ **for his own cause. Unlikely if he was a Liar.**

Check it out on your own

Colossians 2:9

2 Peter 1:1

Matthew 1:23

Hebrews 1:3

Matthew 8:29

John 8:56-59

John 17:5

Revelation 1:17

John 10:11

John 10:22-42

Matthew 25:31

John 8:12

John 14:6

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

C.S. Lewis' Lord, Liar, or Lunatic? —compiled from Mere Christianity

C.S. Lewis said this: "Let us not say, 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is 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 moral teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

I. The Question: Who was (is) Jesus? **The Main Argument:** ☛ There are only 3 possible answers ☛ Lord, or Liar, or Lunatic. The bottom line of the argument is this: Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord. He could not possibly be a liar or a lunatic. Therefore "Jesus is Lord."

II. Argument #1- The Dilemma: Lord or liar: Jesus was either God (if he did not lie about who he was) or a bad man (if he did). But Jesus was not a bad man. Therefore Jesus is God. Few would challenge the second premise, that Jesus was not a bad man. But if the first premise is added, that Jesus was God or a bad man – the conclusion, that Jesus was God, has to be accepted. Therefore to say that Jesus is not who he said he was one must challenge the first premise. ☛ What justifies this premise? Common Sense! Someone who claims to be God, and is no – is not a good man, but a bad man. Therefore a "merely" good man is one thing Jesus could not possibly be. By claiming to be God he eliminates that possibility. For a liar is not a good man and one who is dishonest about his essential identity is a liar – and a mere man who claims to be God lies about his essential identity. ☛ It is attractive and comfortable to say that Jesus was neither a bad man nor God, but a good man. But, to say that he is a bad man offends Christians and to say that he is God offends non-Christians. Therefore many people want to say neither. But to say that offends logic.

III. Argument #2- The Trilemma: Lord, Liar or Lunatic? ☛ Perhaps Jesus was neither God nor a liar. Perhaps he sincerely believed he was God. ☛ But if Jesus wasn't really God, then he was still a bad man even though he was sincere. He was not morally bad (he did not deliberately deceive people), but he was mentally bad (He deceived himself). A lunatic may not be wicked, but he is no more trustworthy than a liar. ☛ Either Jesus believed his own claim to be God or he did not. If he did he was a lunatic. If he did not, he was a liar unless, of course, he was God.

So is Jesus either a Liar or a Lunatic? Neither is the logical answer in my opinion. Why do I think this? Because his character. There is two things people will admit about Jesus: He was wise and He was good. A lunatic is the opposite of wise and a liar is the opposite of good.

An aside: Peter Kreeft (Boston U Professor) in a discussion on this says: "There are lunatics in asylums who sincerely believe they are God. The 'divinity complex' is a recognized form of psychopathology. Its character traits are well known: egotism, narcissism, inflexibility, dullness, predictability, inability to understand and love others as they really are, and to creatively relate to others. In other words, this is the polar opposite of the personality of Jesus! More than any other man in history, Jesus had the three essential virtues every human being needs and wants: wisdom, love and creativity. He wisely and cannily saw into people's hearts, behind their words. He solved unsolvable problems. He also gave totally to others, including his very life. Finally, he was the most creative, interesting, and unpredictable man who ever lived. No one --believer, non-believer or agnostic-- was ever bored by him... If that were lunacy, lunacy would be more desirable than sanity."

Back to Lewis ☛ If Jesus is not a lunatic, is he a liar. If he is a liar he would have to be the cleverest, cunning, blasphemously wicked, satanic deceiver the world has ever known. And if, therefore, Christianity is a lie, it is by far the biggest maddest lie ever told, and Jesus is the biggest and maddest liar.

But in every way Jesus was morally impeccable and even more he died for his "lie". What would motivate a selfish, evil liar to do that? ☛ Therefore if Jesus must be either Liar, Lunatic, or Lord, and he cannot be either a liar or a lunatic then he must be Lord. ☛ He claimed to be God. Either he was or he wasn't. If he wasn't, he either knew that he wasn't or he didn't.

IV. Concluding the Discussion: These are the only possibilities.

- ☛ The first, if he is who he says he was, means he is Lord.
 - ☛ The second, that he wasn't who he said he was, and knew it, means he is a liar.
 - ☛ The third, that he wasn't who he said he was, but didn't know it, means he is a lunatic.
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