

2) **Jesus Christ - Is He God, or just one of several savior christs?** The Bible, in Isaiah 7:14, foretells a coming world savior who will be called *Immanuel*, a Hebrew word meaning "God with us" (see Matthew 1:23). In Luke 4:34, demons recognized Jesus of Nazareth as "the Holy One of God" In Mark 8:29, they call Him "the Son of God". Jesus' first followers said he is the promised Messiah or Anointed one, whom Jesus' cousin John the Baptist called "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). by a "divine revelation", the Apostle Peter calls him, "the Christ [Anointed One] of God" (Luke 9:20). The people of Samaria called Him "the Christ, the Savior of the World" (John 4:42). In John chapter 8, Jesus calls God his Father, saying he proceeded forth and came from God, being sent by God (John 8:42,49). In the eyes of the religious leaders, meant he was making himself out to be God (John 10:33). In John 17:5 Jesus says he existed with God before the world began and in verse 22, He says He and God are one entity. The Author of the Book of John states in the first chapter that Jesus preexisted with God as "the Word" and "was God" (verse 1). Verse 14 states that Jesus is God in fleshly form. Verse 10 says He made the world, and verse 3 states that nothing was made without him. When Jesus followers asked Him to show them God the Father, He stated that, looking at Him, they were seeing God (John 14:9). The Apostle Paul tells the Colossians (1:15) that Jesus is "image of the invisible God", who existed before all things and created all things, and holds all things together (verses 16-17). Hebrews 1:8 calls Jesus God.

Is Jesus the only Man to be called God? - In the Old Testament of the Bible it states that there is only one God who says "for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 46:9a). He calls himself "I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Isaiah 44:6 states "I am the first and the last; and beside me there is no God.". In the Book of Revelation, a person appears to the Apostle John in a vision and says, "**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending**, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (verse 8, also verse 17) Strangely, in verse 18, this same person says that he died. **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen.**" We know this person is Jesus because John says He is "one like unto the Son of Man" (verse 13), a term Jesus used of Himself in the three gospels (e.g., Luke 9:26,44,56,58). In the last chapter of Revelation (22:13), the speaker repeats "**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**" In verse 16 He says, "I Jesus". He says He is both the source of King David, and the heir to his throne, the Morning Star. In verse 20 He says "Surely I come quickly". The Apostle John responds with "even so, come, Lord Jesus".

A final point - Jesus didn't expect us to believe He is God just because He said so. He told us to look at the miracles He did as proof that He is God (John 14:11). He said he would continue His miracle ministry through his followers (Acts 1:1, Mark 16:17-20), as a sign that he conquered death and still alive today, ready and willing to make us children of God when we ask Him to forgive our sins and come into our hearts.

Revelation 3:20 **Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

About 1981, I prayed in Jesus' name for the miracle healing of the pastor's wife's daughter, Jennifer, who's tooth was cracked off. The healing power of Jesus went through me into the girl and she shook. Ten minutes later, the mother said her tooth had grown back!

Why does it matter - What is the significance of Jesus being "God the Son", our Creator and only Savior? Mankind disobeyed God's Commandments, sinning against God. In Holy God's system of justice, He cannot look on sin, and sin separated us from fellowship with God (Romans 3:10,23; 6:23a;) and earned us the penalty eternal separation from God. No amount of good deeds on our part can right this wrong - we cannot earn heaven (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9). Only a perfect sacrifice can pay for our sins and restore our spending eternity with God. Becoming like us, in the person of Jesus Christ, but never

sinning, God provided by Himself, through the sacrifice of the perfect life of Jesus dying on a cross in our place as our sin substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21), a way God can accept for us to be reunited with Him, and gain again eternal life with Him forever in His perfect Heavenly kingdom on a renewed earth which will include our having immortal bodies that cannot grow old, get sick, or die. Jesus will become, in actuality, the King of the universe, and evil will be forever banished from His and our presence, IF we receive God's free but costly love gift as payment for our sins/disobedience, are truly sorry for our sins, and seek, by the power of God the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us, to walk in harmony with God's will and plan for our lives as revealed in the Bible which is the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Is Jesus Christ God's only acceptable solution to man's sin? Let's quit looking for other avenues to God and eternal life, and get with His chosen plan! To disagree is to say that God paid too high a price for mankind to get reconnected to the Creator and gain access to heaven for eternity.

If there had been another way that God could have restored the world to a right relationship with Himself other than sacrificing the most precious thing He had, His only Son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place for our sins, then either God didn't know what He was doing, or He paid too much!

There are a lot of religions in the world today with a lot of different views of who Jesus really is. A Bible verse in I John 4:1-3 NLT:

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.

But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

Here is a true story from the book *I talked with Spirits* by Victor F. Ernest. He and his family had been attending séances where, unknown to them, a demon spirit would take over a group leader called a medium, and speak through that person. One day the spirit said something as if it was from the Bible. Victor's grandmother knew it wasn't and blurted out "That's not what the bible says!" Instead of being rebuked for interrupting, the spirit let the remark pass. Victor bought a Bible and found the I John chapter four passage, and decided to test where this spirit was coming from, that is, who's side he was on, God's, or the Devil's. It was announced that in the next meeting each person would be able to ask the spirit three questions. Victor's first question was, "Oh great and infinite spirit, do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?" The spirit replied, "Yes, my child, only believe as the Bible says." For the second question, Victor added, "Do you believe that Jesus Christ became a Man?" The spirit answered, "My child, why are you so unbelieving, why do you doubt?" The spirit then began to quote bible verses on believing. For the third and final question, Victor repeated the spirit's two previous answers, and then asked, "Do you believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of the sins of the world?" The medium was catapulted out of his chair and onto the floor and had to be revived. It was "a carnival of spirits in confusion". Victor learned his lesson and never attended another séance.

Dr. Kurt Koch, a German Christian Psychologist with over 20,000 case histories of people being involved in occult activities and suffering for doing so, wrote in his book *The Devil's Alphabet*, "The Devil is a versatile and many sided demagogue. To the cultist and religionist he offers the very help of Heaven. To the rationalist and atheist he says, 'I'm not there, I don't even exist.'"