



# Week 3: Who Jesus is

## Day 1 Reflection

### TRUTH

Who does the Bible teach that Jesus is? Scripture explains that Jesus is Fully Human and Fully God all at the same time. Jesus, a Person, has two distinct natures. There are many verses in the Bible that show us His humanity. There are also many verses which declare His Deity. For today's reflection, we are going to examine the trail of discovery that the Bible leads us on to find out Who Jesus really is. Look up the verses below and write out the characteristics that indicate His Humanity and Deity.

### JESUS

Fully Human

Matthew 4:2

Luke 2:7

Luke 2:40

Luke 2:52

Luke 23:46

John 4:6

John 19:28

Hebrews 5:7

Fully God

Matthew 8:26-27

Matthew 16:21

Matthew 18:19-20

Matthew 28:18

John 1:1-4

John 8:58

1 Peter 2:21-22

Now read Colossians 2:9. This verse sums up what you have been learning. Rewrite it in your own words. Do you wrestle with the Deity of Jesus or His Humanity more? What are the implications for us that Jesus is Human and God?

## Day 2 Reflection

### TRUTH

Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does this passage declare both the Deity and the Humanity of Jesus? Is your life marked with the same kind of humility Jesus demonstrated in this passage? How can this passage encourage us to imitate His humility?

### EVIDENCE

If we had to explore additional evidence around "Who is Jesus?", what would you say are some of the key questions either you have asked along your journey or perhaps have been asked by others? What answer would you give to someone who asked, "Who is Jesus?" or "How do we know Jesus existed?" "The resurrection? Are you sure that's even true and not really just a myth or story the disciples made up?"

Today you are encouraged to read the following article that presents evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. The article is written by Josh McDowell.

Let this quote get you excited about going deeper into this article:

"After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted on the minds of human beings — or it is the most remarkable fact of history."

Josh McDowell

ARTICLE: <https://www.josh.org/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-For-The-Resurrection.pdf>

Let this evidence sink in! How does this evidence change or impact your understanding of the resurrection and the impact that this has on your relationship with Jesus? How would you have a discussion about this with a friend? Your kids?

## Day 3 Reflection

### TRUTH

For today's reflection, read Colossians 1:15-23. Then answer these questions. Who is Christ?

What does He do? Who is Christ to you? What is your hope in Him? What praise can you offer up to Him this day after reflecting on this passage?

### TACTICS

Do you wrestle with the deity of Jesus or His humanity more? What about the world? What do you see them struggling with? Use these verses as a road map when discussing others what the bible says about who Jesus really was? How could you do that? What are some of the things others say? How do you answer them? What are some of the things you have heard said about Jesus?

Here is an opportunity for you to think about how you would defend who you know Jesus to be. Think about how you would do that. Jot a few notes down, using the questions above to guide and shape your thinking.

## Day 4 Reflection

### TRUTH

Read Revelation Chapter 1. While reading the book of Revelation, many concentrate on the End Times timeline. But the importance of this book lies more with whom it reveals. And according to v. 1, this book is a revelation of whom? So today, sketch your Alpha and Omega (as described in v. 13-16.) Then write down next to His picture all the titles of Jesus found in chapter 1. Don't miss the ones listed in v. 5. Now read each one to your King. Your reaction? Your thoughts? Does your reaction resemble John's found in v. 17? Imagine, dear one, one day you will see your King looking just like this!

### CHURCH HISTORY & OTHER WORLDVIEWS

16th Century

#### Reformation

**Martin Luther**, AD 1483-1546, a German monk, held to the belief that the Bible is the ultimate authority, and that salvation is by God's grace, not by good works. These teachings were in direct conflict with the Catholic Church. Luther also opposed the Church's sale of indulgences which were documents sold to laymen as a way of absolving their sin. On October 31, 1517, he nailed a document of 95 statements which detailed the unbiblical practices of the Catholic Church onto a church door. With this, Martin Luther hoped to reform the Church. Instead, his action began the Reformation which led to the Protestant Church. Thereafter, Martin Luther feared for his life because the Pope declared him a heretic, but he died of natural causes.

Luther is famous for his 95 Theses, but there were other saints in different parts of the world who were saying the same things around the same time as Luther.

**John Calvin**, 1509-1564, a French theologian, was influenced by Augustine and his teachings on predestination. All of Calvin's life he sought the glory and supremacy of God. His theological system which centered on predestination of the elect and other points is remembered by the acrostic, TULIP. (More on this later). Calvin died of natural causes.

**Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley** were priests in England who tried to poke holes in the points of the Reformation. Instead, they came to believe in them. These men spent 18 months in the Tower of London as religious prisoners of the Catholic Queen Mary I. Then on October 16, 1555, both were burned alive at the stake for their beliefs. While the fires beneath them burned brightly each hailed encouragement to the other. Ridley said, "Be of good heart brother, for God will either assuage the fury of

the flame, or else strengthen us to abide it." Latimer raised his voice in turn, "Be of good comfort Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." 3 years later, the protestant Queen Elizabeth 1 came to power and Latimer and Ridley's candle burst into a torch and transformed England from a Catholic kingdom to a lighthouse of the Reformation. God heard their pleas, dear One! Can you just shout for joy! If we could just harness a small amount of their steadfastness, what would God do with it?? What candle do you hold that could turn into a torch in God's Hands? Glory!!!

And lest you think the reformers were only men, check out our sisters in the Lord.

**Lady Jane Grey** <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-teenage-martyr>

**Katharina von Vora** <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-runaway-nun>

**Marie Dentiere** <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-first-lady-in-france>

## 18th Century

**Jonathan Edwards**, 1703-1758, was an American preacher in New England. He was a Calvinist. There arose in his time a disagreement between Calvinists and another group of preachers who adhered to Arminianism. Both Calvinism and Arminianism are systems of theology that attempt to explain the relationship between God's sovereignty and our responsibility as it pertains to salvation. The TULIP acrostic is used when explaining the 5 points of Calvinism. Arminianism believes the exact opposite belief of each of the 5 points of Calvinism.

T- Total depravity of man-no good in man

U-Unconditional election-God chooses who is saved

L-Limited Atonement-Jesus died only for the saved, not for the whole world

I-Irresistible Grace-if God calls you to be saved, you cannot refuse Him

P-Perseverance of the saints- cannot lose your salvation

This argument continues today. If it interests, you further use the link below to see an interesting cartoon giving more details contrasting Calvinism and Arminianism.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Calvinism-vs-Arminianism.html>

## 19th Century

**Charles Spurgeon**, 1834-1892, an English preacher whose nickname was "The Prince of Preachers", believed that some evangelical churches in England were starting to drift away from orthodoxy to a more theological liberalism, some even rejecting the idea of the Trinity. He opposed these preachers in very public debates. Charles received much criticism, but he stood firm in his belief that these churches were on the downhill slide. This was called the Down Grade controversy.

The Down Grade controversy is an excellent example of why being familiar with Church History is so important. The rejection of the Trinity was not a new idea, it came from a group in the 3rd century. And that same belief found its way into the 19th century. Everything old is new again. No matter how an old idea is newly packaged, it is still the same heresy. Therefore, understanding the battles, and the controversies over the generations can help us keep heresies out of our churches today, because what goes around comes around.

John Piper said, "Every generation needs to unlock the treasures of Scripture for the peculiar perils and possibilities of its own time. Our generation no less than any."

With that in mind, what perils do you perceive in the church today? Anything coming around again?

*Just a note: While we can marvel at the courage of our Christian brothers/sisters who fought the good fight, we must keep in mind that not one of these saints got everything right. Luther wrote indefensible things against the Jewish nation. Jonathan Edwards owned slaves. Catholics died at the hands of Protestants sometimes. It is also important to note that the people written about in Hebrews 11 did not have a perfect faith either. But you know what is amazing about this? God chooses to use broken people. He chose these we have studied. He chose those named in Scripture. And He choose you- in all your brokenness. And He does amazing things despite our failings if we only seek Him.*

## Day 5 Reflection

### TRUTH

Read Isaiah Chapter 53. Sketch a cross and label it with all the phrases from this chapter that describe what Jesus endured, as fully human, on the cross. Note what His death on the cross meant for us as well. Wow! If you have breath in your body, I know it is just waiting to exhale in praise to Him.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Would you like to dig a little deeper? Here are some interesting articles for you to consider:

- Is there evidence for Jesus outside of the Bible? By J. Warner Wallace (<https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/is-there-any-evidence-for-jesus-outside-the-bible/>)
- J. Warner Wallace has a number of articles that you might find interesting – the link to his articles on Jesus is: <https://coldcasechristianity.com/category/writings/jesus/>
- C. S. Lewis, "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 a 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."
- Here is an article that looks at Was Jesus a liar, lunatic — or Lord? "An Investigation: Is Jesus Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?" by Sherri Bell from Josh McDowell Ministry: <https://www.josh.org/jesus-liar-lunatic-lord/>

Some podcasts you may wish to consider:

- Summit Ministries has a page where they recommend some podcasts on the topic of the resurrection. Here are the links to the two podcasts:
- Episode 61: The Truth About the Resurrection: <https://www.summit.org/resources/podcast/episode-61-the-truth-about-the-resurrection-with-dr-gary-habermas/>
- Episode 62: Defending the Resurrection: <https://www.summit.org/resources/podcast/episode-62-defending-the-resurrection-with-dr-gary-habermas-aaron-atwood/>