

WHO IS JESUS?

John 5:16-47



SYNOPSIS

The question of who Jesus is seems not yet settled for many Christians. About 30% of self-proclaimed evangelicals believe that Jesus is not God. John's record of Jesus's discourse here leaves no room to doubt that he claimed to be God. Questions for us: Do we believe him? If we do, is he *our* God?



OUTLINE

1

JESUS IS GOD

From the familiar use of "my Father" and allusions to having the same bloodline, essence, and power as God, Jesus clearly claimed to be God. He said that the Jewish leaders did not recognize him as Messiah because they did not know God.

They did not realize that Moses would not advocate for them but accuse them because their insistence on the law only pointed to their need for a savior. These claims were blasphemy to the Jewish leaders, but they at least heard Jesus correctly.

C.S. Lewis: A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said...would either be a lunatic...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.

John Piper: In the twenty-first century world of teeming pluralism, with religions and worldviews and cultures and lifestyles competing for our allegiance, verse 23 lands like a bombshell: "Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."

2

JESUS'S VALIDATION COMES FROM GOD

Jesus's rationale for everything he did was that he was acting only to please his Father and to carry out his will. (vv. 19, 30) Jesus is the ultimate human being, the only one who can be the example for how to live the best life on earth. His ability to live this way came directly from doing God's will. Jesus must have known how intense the opposition was becoming, and yet he continued to speak and act from the simple motivation of wanting to please his Father.

We are so different from Jesus. We seek validation and derive motivation from many sources that are not God. We all have a desire to show people that we are succeeding in life. When our validation is based on what we do and what we have, our decisions will inevitably prioritize those things over God. Things like holiness and intimacy with God then become optional.

Learn from God's words to P. Hansub: "You are so silly. Learn from Jesus. He only wanted to please God."



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Do you believe that Jesus is God? Why/why not?

2

Is Jesus *your* God? What do you mean when you say he is/isn't?

3

What are the areas in your life in which 1 Pet 2:11 is difficult to live out?

4

Are there things in your life that are competing with God for your ultimate affection?

5

Do you feel the Lord asking you to do what he asked of P. Hansub: to choose simply to please God?



BIG IDEA

Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does...I seek not to please myself but him who sent me." (v. 19, 30)

After choosing to believe that Jesus is God and making him *our* God, this is the key to living the best life on earth.

