

HIStory (Part 1)

Jesus: The Eternal One

(Mt. 16:13 -17)

Introduction: Christianity differs from all other religions because it is more than a religion – it is the life of Jesus (The Christ, the Son of the living God (v.16) made living in man. *Christ is Christianity and Christianity is Christ!* In our text, Jesus asks His disciples (followers) two very important questions, “*Who do men say I am?*” and “*who do you say I am?*” In order for a person to answer these questions, they must settle the issues of His identity, eternity and deity.

I. The question of His identity:

The question of Jesus identity is of great consequence because perception equals belief, which in turn, determines behavior.

A. Who is Jesus according to the people of His day?

(Lk. 4:22; Jn. 6:42; Lk. 5:21; Lk.9:9; Mt. 21;10; 15:31; Mk. 1:27; 7:37).

1. To His followers He was one who had amazing authority (Mt. 8:27)
2. But to His believers – He was the Messiah (Jn. 1:41; The Christ...Mt. 16:16)
3. When Jesus asked who do men say I am? He got a variety of answers – This shows us there was a lot of confusion as to who is this Jesus then, just as there is today.

B. Who is Jesus according to the people of today?

1. You may get a verity of answers today from flesh to faith responses.
2. Some might even say He was founder of a religion – (Heb. 1:8; Jn. 10:30:3:16-18; 1:12; Mt.20:28; Rom.6:23b; Jn. 3:14; Ac. 4:12)
3. The Apostle Paul warned us about following after “another Jesus” (2 Cor. 11:4)

And so the second question is posed to you. Who do you say Jesus is? - This is a question we must all individually answer.

II. The question of His eternity:

One of the greatest questions we are faced with about Jesus is – where did He come from?

A. Jesus claimed to be eternal – (Jn.8: 39-43, 48, 52-59)

B. Jehovah claimed Jesus was eternal – Heb. 1:8

C. John claimed Jesus was eternal – (Jn. 1:1-3, 14-18; 1 Jn. 5:7)

D. Paul claimed Jesus was eternal – (Phil 2:6-7; Col. 1:15-17; 2:8-9)
So Jesus, Jehovah, John and Paul and of course Peter (in our text) all claim Jesus is the eternal one. This leaves us with one last question...

III. The question of His deity: Or, is Jesus God?

This question is important on two levels, theological and practical:

1. **Theologically** – if Jesus is not eternally God, then the credibility of all the scriptures are undermined. (If any portion of scripture is faulty – how can any of it be trusted?)
2. **Practically** – If Jesus was just a mere man – our faith is futile, empty and our hope vanishes.
 - A. He is called God by the Apostle John** – (Jn. 1:1)
 - B. He is called God by the apostle Thomas** – (Jn. 20:28)
 - C. He is called God by God** – (Heb. 1:8)
 - D. He is called God by the Apostle Paul** - Christ is the eternal Son of God – (Phil. 2:5-7)
 - E. The Word of God calls Him** - “*the first and the Last*” (cf. Isa. 41:4b ; 44:6b; 48:12 and Rev.1:17,18; 2:8; 22:13.)
 - F. He Himself claims that He is the “Alpha and Omega”** (Rev. 1:8; 22:12,13,16)
 - G. He possesses all the divine attributes of God**, and in these is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father. (Jn.1:1-3)
 1. **He is Omnipotent** – “**All powerful**” (Luke 4:39 –Lk 7:14,15; 8:54,55; Jn.5:25 Mt. 8:26,27 Mt.8:16; Lk. 4:35, 36, 41 Eph.1:20-23, Heb.1:3,)
 2. **He is omniscient** – “**All knowing**” (Jn. 4:16-19, Mk.2:8, Lk.5:22; Jn. 2:24,25;Jn.6:64 Jn. 1:48 Lk.22:10-12; Jn.13:1; Lk.5:4-6 Jn.16:30; Col.2:3)
 3. **He is Omnipresent** – “**All present**” (Mt. 18:20 ; Mt. 28:20; Jn. 3:13; Jn.14:20; 2 Cor.13:5; Eph.1:23)
 4. **He is immutable** – Heb.13:8 (Rom 10:11)

Conclusion: Knowing what we see and believe is what we do...

We have to ask; what does my life say about what I believe about Jesus today?