



The Trilemma

After two thousand years, there is still ongoing debate concerning who Jesus Christ of Nazareth really was. While most people will readily admit that Jesus was a great teacher and a morally upright man, they simply leave it at that. In doing so, they miss the entire question – either Jesus Christ was the Son of God (and is Himself Deity) or He was not. The great 20th century Christian writer, C. S. Lewis, put it well: *“You can shut Him up as 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 up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”* (*Mere Christianity*, 41).

In this first installment of a three part series, I will introduce an argument in defense of the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that if one truly weighs the evidence with an open mind and an open heart, he/she will find the evidence overwhelming that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.

There are only three alternatives to who Jesus Christ was. He was either a liar; or He was a lunatic; or He is Lord. This classic Christian argument, known as the Trilemma, leaves one with a very serious decision to

make – an eternally significant decision. That is, either accept Jesus Christ as Lord and God, or deny Him in the face of clear logic and evidence.

Was Jesus Christ a liar? Jesus made bold claims that He was the Son of God (John 10:36). If He knew that He was lying, then He was not simply a liar, but a hypocrite and an evil man of the worst sort. Not only did He tell others not to lie but He claimed Himself to be *“the Truth”* (John 14:6). If He were a liar, what a cruel deception it would have been to encourage sincere men, women, and children to trust in Him for their eternal destiny.

Furthermore, His claims that He was the Son of God are what led to His own cruel punishment, mocking, and eventual death by crucifixion. A man proclaiming a lie would not suffer such persecution, much less death itself for the sake of maintaining a lie, unless of course he is crazy.

Finally, Jesus’ enemies could never name a single lie or true sin against Him (John 8:42-47).

If Jesus was a liar, then He was not the great man that most skeptics readily admit Him to be. But, He was not a liar! So, was He crazy or is He Lord? Well, we’ll return to these next time.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Scott