

Claims Of Jesus To Be God

Selected Scriptures

Introduction: A religious cult is a group that deviates from “the faith,” which is a body of beliefs taught in the Bible such as the Virgin Birth, salvation by grace through faith, the Trinity, the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ, eternal punishment in hell (Acts 14:22; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:7; Jude 3). One of the characteristics of religious cults is a denial of the divinity of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that Jesus is both human and divine. I believe that most of us believe that Jesus was, is, and always will be God. However, if someone were to say to us, “Show me in the Bible where Jesus claimed to be God,” how many of us would be able to turn to at least two passages and point out where Jesus claimed to be God? In this study, we will examine some of the claims of Jesus to be God:

I. Jesus Said He Existed Before Abraham (John 8:56-59).

A. “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

1. Jesus did not say, “Before Abraham was, I was.”
2. “I am” translates ἐγώ (*egō*) εἰμί (*eimi*).
 - a. “I” translates ἐγώ (*egō*).
 - b. “Am” translates εἰμί (*eimi*).
 - c. “I am” also translates εἰμί (*eimi*).
 - d. *Egō eimi* is literally “I, I am.”
3. In the Septuagint Version, which is a Greek translation of the Old Testament, the same Greek works are used to translate “I AM” (Exodus 3:14).

B. The divinity of Jesus always existed (John 1:1-3).

C. The humanity of Jesus began in Bethlehem (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 3:16).

D. The Jews sought to stone Jesus because they recognized that He was claiming to be God (John 8:59; cf. John 5:18; 10:30-33).

E. Only God can make and prove the claims that Jesus made:

1. “I Am the Bread of life” (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51).
2. “I Am the Light of the world” (John 8:12).
3. “I Am the Door of the sheep” (John 10:7, 9).
4. “I Am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11, 14).
5. “I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25).
6. “I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6).
7. “I Am the true Vine” (John 15:1, 5).

F. In the following passages “he” is italicized indicating that it is not in the original text: John 8:24, 28; 18:5, 6, 8.

G. Jesus is still the Great I Am (Hebrews 13:8).

II. Jesus Said He Was The Same As God (John 10:30-33; cf. John 5:18).

A. “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).

1. “One” translates the Greek neuter ἓν (*hen*) rather than εἷς (*heis*).
2. “One” ἓν (*hen*) refers to essence or nature rather than person.

3. There are three distinct persons in the Trinity, but only one essence which is God.
 4. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have the same essence which is God.
- B. Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Jesus because they recognized that He was claiming to be God (John 10:31-33).**
- III. Jesus Said To See Him Was The Same As Seeing God The Father (John 12:45; 14:8-9).**
- A. According to Hebrews 1:3, Jesus is the exact representation of God's essence or nature.**
 - B. Jesus said, "Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him" (John 5:23, New Century Version).**
- IV. Jesus Forgave Sins As God (cf. Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26).**
- V. Jesus Said He Was Lord Of The Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5).**
- A. "Lord" translates the Greek noun κύριος (*kurios*), which means "Sovereign, Master, Ruler, Owner."**
 - B. Jesus gave the Sabbath, and He is sovereign over the Sabbath because He is God (Exodus 20:8-11).**
- VI. Jesus Claimed To Be God When He Was On Trial (Matthew 26:62-68; Mark 14:60-65; Luke 22:66-71).**
- A. Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14.**
 - B. "Son of Man" was a title Jesus most often used for Himself (Daniel 7:13).**
 - C. Jesus applied two messianic prophecies to Himself (Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13-14).**
- VII. Jesus Received Worship As God (John 20:28; cf. Matthew 8:1-2; 15:25).**
- A. Godly men refused worship (Acts 10:25-26; 14:8-18).**
 - 1. Peter refused worship (Acts 10:25-26).**
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas refused worship (Acts 14:8-18).**
 - B. Holy angels refused worship (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9).**
 - C. Jesus received worship because He is God (cf. Matthew 8:1-2; 9:18; 15:25; 28:9, 17).**
 - D. Jesus is worthy of our worship (Revelation 5:1-14).**

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