



The Caller

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Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I would like for us to examine Jesus' claim to divinity. Many times people question whether Jesus really was or is the Son of God. Is this topic even really important at all? When one

considers that Jesus himself said "Ye will die in your sins...unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins," it seems like the answer to the question of whether such a belief is important or not is a resounding "yes!"

When you actually sit down and logically examine Jesus' claim to divinity there are only a few possible conclusions that could be drawn. If one says that Jesus meant His claim to be divine as a literal claim, then there are only two or three (depending on how you view the breakdown) possibilities.

The first possibility is that Jesus meant His claim to be divine to be a literal claim...and that claim is true. This is what most who have honestly examined the evidence of Christ's claim to divinity have concluded. John 20:30-31 seems to highlight that belief will come from an honest examination of the facts.

A second view, if one feels that Christ meant His claim to be divine literally, is that He meant it literally but it is not a true claim. If it was not a true claim it is a false claim. If Jesus made a false claim then He is a knowing liar. If He made the claim and fully believed it was true, when the claim was in actuality not true, then Christ was a lunatic.

A third view of Christ's claim to be divine is simply that He meant it mystically. In other words, He did not mean it literally. He was simply some sort of religious guru who made the claim to be divine but He only meant it in some non-literal way.

Some try to claim Jesus never made the claim to be divine. These people claim that it is only a myth passed down through the generations and was never an actual claim of the Lord. But as the right-hand column of this page depicts, one would be hard pressed to say Jesus never made the claim to be divine.

If Jesus is divine, and He is, then His claim needs to be taken more seriously. It is truly an eternal life and eternal death situation

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Passages Regarding Christ's Claim to Divinity

1. The early creedal formula "Jesus is Lord [kyrios]": 1 Cor 12:3; Phil 2:11.
2. The title "Son of God" ("Son of" implies "of the same nature as."): Mt 11:27; Mk 12:6; 13:32; 14:61-62; Lk 10:22; 22:70; Jn 10:30; 14:9.
3. The New Testament calls him "God": Tit 2:13; 1 Jn 5:20; Rom 9:5; Jn 1:1.
4. Absolutely, universally supreme: Col 1:15-20.
5. Eternally preexistent: Jn 1:1; Phil 2:6; Heb 13:8; Rev 22:13.
6. Omnipresent: Mt 18:20; 28:20.
7. Omnipotent: Mt 28:18; Heb 1:3; Rev 1:8.
8. Immutable: Heb 1:11-12; 13:8.
9. Creates (only God can create): Col 1:16-17; Jn 1:3; 1 Cor 8:6; Heb 1:10.
10. Sinless, perfect: Heb 7:26; Jn 8:46; 2 Cor 5:21.
11. Has authority to forgive sins: Mk 2:5-12; Lk 24:45-47; Acts 10:43; 1 Jn 1:5-9.
12. Rightly worshiped: Mt 2:11; 14:33; 28:9; Jn 20:28; Heb 1:5-9.
13. Speaks the unique, forbidden divine name: Jn 8:58.
14. Called "King of kings and Lord of lords": 1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14.
15. One with the Father: Jn 10:30; 12:45; 14:8-10.
16. Performs miracles: Jn 10:37-38; and throughout all four Gospels.
17. Sends the Holy Spirit: Jn 14:25-26; 16:7-15.
18. The Father testifies to him: Mt 3:17; 17:5; Jn 8:18; 1 Jn 5:9.
19. Gives eternal life: Jn 3:16; 5:39-40; 20:30-31.
20. Foreknows the future: Mk 8:31; Lk 9:21-22; 12:49-53; 22:35-37; 24:1-7; Jn 3:11-14; 6:63-64; 13:1-11; 14:27-29; 18:1-4; 19:26-30.
21. Is Lord over the Law: Lk 6:1-5.

(Source: Peter Kreeft and Ronald K. Tacelli *Handbook of Christian Apologetics: Hundreds of Answers to Crucial Questions*(Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 1994), 171-174.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — A Battle with Satan
Luke 4:1-13

P.M. — Zephaniah
Zephaniah 3:1-4

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