

## 5 Questions from Jesus “Who do you say that I am?”

**EQ:** The issue we face today is this: “What do you think about Jesus real identity and authority?”

We begin by looking at the “Jesus” of the vast majority:

**Jehovah’s Witnesses:** Jesus is actually Michael, the Archangel. He was the first creation of God.

**Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints):**

“*As man now is, God once was:*”

“*As God now is, man may be.*”

**Christian Science:** Their founder: **Mary Baker Eddy** said that Jesus was only a man and that Christ is a Divine idea.

**Sun Myung Moon (the Korean messiah):** claimed that Jesus was a man who failed his divine mission and he, Rev. Moon, is the second coming of Christ to unite the world under the banner of the Unification Church. Sun Myung Moon died on Sept 3, 2012 and has never been heard from again!

**Unitarians:** believe that Jesus was a good man who was mistakenly deified by his followers.

**Freemasonry:** teaches that Jesus was only a moral teacher. He was no better than Buddha, Confucius, Moses or Mohammed.

**Scientology:** Science Fiction writer: L. Ron Hubbard claim that Jesus is a false dream.



**John Travolta, Tom Cruise, the late Kristi Alley, "The Simpsons" actor Nancy Cartwright.**

**SO, WHO IS THE REAL JESUS?**

**(Matthew 16:13–20)** <sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

**Asking Questions** the best tool anyone can ever utilize in order to get the beliefs and thoughts of others.

**As I seek to witness to others about Jesus here are some of the questions I like to ask:**

*Why am you here at this time of history?*

*What is your purpose in this life?*

*How do you define the truth?*

*How do you handle shame and guilt?*

**But of all the weighty questions one is the best: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

*“Who do people say that the Son of Man is” (v. 13).*



**This is our greatest problem today:**

We have more historical evidence than ever to the reality of Jesus. Some of us have seen miracles. Many of us have had prayers answered. And there are still too many hard hearts.

In their 2020 State of Theology report, **Ligonier Ministries** asked American participants to respond to this statement:



*“Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.” Over half agreed.*

**Peter hit the nail on the head!** <sup>15</sup> *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”* <sup>16</sup> *Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* <sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

If you remember I told you Jesus spoke to my heart many years ago and in essence told me:

*“Tom, you are not the savior, I am. You save no one. What you are called to do is offer over and over to others”: Your role is to offer: Invitations to learn of me, and know me. Opportunities to experience my reality in the circumstances of life.*

<sup>18</sup> *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock<sup>a/</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of hell<sup>b/</sup> shall not prevail against it.*

**Question for you:** Whose church is it? St. Paul’ is not Tom’ church, the elders’ church, or your church. It belongs to Jesus who is building it. We are living stones in the building, as Peter puts it (1 Pet 2:5); *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Never ever forget: You and I are guests in the body of Christ Jesus.



As a result of faith alone in Jesus we read vs 19:

*“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

**THE POINT IS CLEAR:** Jesus, by Peter’s confession, gave him authority beyond human ability to bring conviction, power and results to all matters of life.

The issue we face today is this: “What do you think about Jesus real identity and authority?”

Folks, if you believe in Jesus, that he is God among us, risen from the dead, and eternal, then know this: You have his authority to be his voice and power in this world.

