

THE CONTENDER

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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TO THE SKEPTIC: EVIDENCES THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!

Read the accounts of Jesus' life as recorded in the N.T. and ask yourself, "Are these the actions and sayings of a natural man?" Would an imposter, a cheat and a fraud have so acted? Let's note Christ's claims.

- I. He Claimed To Be Sinlessly Perfect.
 - A. He challenged people to convict him of sin. (Jn. 8:46)
 - B. His disciples said He was sinless but made no such claim for themselves. (Heb. 4:15, I Pet. 2:22, Lk. 5:8 and I Tim. 1:15)
 - C. Even Judas admitted He was innocent. (Matt. 27:4)
 - D. His enemies used every means, legal and illegal, to convict Him of sin yet those who sentenced Him to death admitted His innocence. (Matt. 21:24)
 - E. Such a claim would be disastrous to an imposter or fraud. He would know he could not hide his mistakes and human frailties. But Jesus made the claim, lived the part, and at the same time condemned self-righteousness!
- II. He Claimed To Be Equal With God. (Jn. 5:17,18; 14:6-10)
 - A. Jesus lived with the calm assurance that He was the Son Of God, that He had the attributes and perogatives of God and that He came forth from the Father and would return unto Him.
 - B. What sinful human being would ever conceive that such a relationship could exist between God in heaven and man on earth?
 - C. What imposter or fraud would have made such a claim knowing that it would mean certain punishment for blasphemy?
- III. He Claimed That He Would Rise From The Dead. (Lk. 9:22, Matt. 12:40)
 - A. What would an imposter, seeking to establish a false religion and further his own ends, possibly hope to accomplish by such a claim?
 - B. He would know that within three days after his death he would be proven a liar.
- IV. He Claimed That All Men Everywhere Should Love And Obey Him.
 - A. Matt. 10:37; Mk. 16:15-16
 - B. What Jewish imposter would have ever conceived of the Great Commission? The Jews were bound up with national pride and hated the gentiles.

JESUS WITHOUT DIVINITY?

If you take the divinity away from Jesus do you know what you have? You have a Jew born in a captive Roman proviance of a

peasant woman, lived as a carpenter for 30 years, became a teacher of religion for 3½ years, was deserted by his few followers when arrested, tried and killed as a common criminal. He never wrote a book or went to college, yet claiming to be equal with God, the light of the world, the judge of mankind, that he would rise from the dead and was sinless!

- A. More than this, he succeeded in having all time reconed from him.
- B. He built His church that spread throughout the world in the first century. (Matt. 24:14, Col. 1:23)
- C. A Jew that invented the character of Christ and successfully played the part for a number of years.
- D. Though a conscious liar, He gave the world the highest moral standard it has ever known.

WHO CAN BELIEVE THIS? The only logical conclusion to reach is that Jesus is what He claimed to be--the Christ and the Son of God!

"..but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

*	<u>ORDER OF SERVICES</u>	*
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*Lord's Day	10:00 a.m. Worship	*
*	7:00 p.m. Worship	*
Thursday:	7:00 p.m. Bible Study	

Let's study some unnatural attitudes of Jesus that would be impossible for an imposter.

1. He was completely devoid of worldly ambition.
 - A. When a rich ruler came to Him, who could have advanced His cause Jesus sent him away by imposing upon him a condition that the rich could not accept. (Mk. 10:17-22)
 - B. When the people tried to make Him a worldly king He refused. Jn. 6
 - C. A fraud trying to establish a religion would naturally try to influence and win support of the rulers, priests and scribes while Jesus sought the poor and sinners (Lk. 15:1-2) and rebuked ones in prominent positions. (Matt. 23)
2. He never expressed doubt on any subject. (Jn. 7:46)
 - A. There were no mysteries to Him as He spoke as one that possessed all truth.
 - B. Jesus never appealed to human philosophy in an attempt to bolster his arguments. He did not apologise for even the most revolutionary statements, nor did He burden people with complicated or worldly explanations. His authority did not come from education, politics influence, popularity or any such source.
3. He was entirely free from prejudices or hatred.
 - A. While surrounded by prejudices against the Gentiles (Jn. 4:9) He treated all kindly and in the church He built He made Jew and Gentile slave and free, equal. (Mk. 16:15-16) What Jewish fraud would have so acted? (Gal. 3:28-29)
4. He was entirely fearless in proclaiming doctrine certain to bring persecution.
 - A. While Jews pointed with pride to Jerusalem, Jesus plainly foretold of its utter destruction. (Matt. 24)
 - B. When the Jews looked to the Ten Commandments as the ultimate and eternal law Jesus taught men to hear Him rather than Moses. (Matt. 5; Col. 2:14)
 - C. When the nation looked for a worldly Messiah Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36)
 - D. What imposter would make such statements calculated to bring wrath of the Jewish people down upon him? What would he have to gain by condemning all of the existing Jewish sects, showing disregard for their traditions, and accusing their leaders of hypocrisy?
5. He had no malice toward his enemies. (Matt. 5:44)
 - A. His dying words were not words of one whose earthly plans had been defeated. (Lk. 23:34)
6. Jesus was entirely free from selfishness.
 - A. Can you point out one selfish thing that he ever did. His whole life was spent in service to others. (Matt. 20:27)
 - B. What imposter seeking to gather support for himself would have given God all the credit for the work he had accomplished? Jn. 5:30
7. What imposter would have made these unnatural sayings:
 - A. Jn. 8:58--What Jew living in that day would have conceived of a pre-existence?
 - B. Matt. 24:35 Wouldn't it be the height of audacity for a human being to say that his words were more important than time?
 - C. Jn. 5:21-29 What human being would ever risk the ridicule and exposure that could come from falsely claiming to rise from the dead?
 - D. Matt. 4:10, Jn. 4:23-23 While claiming that only God should be worshipped, He accepted the worship from many people. Matt. 8:2 9:18, Jn. 9:35-38, Matt. 28:9, Jn. 20:26-29

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God! He built His Church with His own blood and now reigns as Head from the throne of God. It's His will that all men believe and are baptized if they are to be saved. Why not simply be a Christian, thereby a member of the church of Christ and be faithful to Him that heaven might be your home in eternity?