

Who is Christ of the Bible?

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I believe that God the Father is the literal father of Jesus Christ. I believe that Mary was Christ's mother and God the Father was His literal father through the immaculate conception (which of course none of us can understand).

I Believe that Christ is a separate being from God the Father. The Bible says that He prayed to His father many times. I do not believe he was praying to Himself in the Bible. When He was baptized by John the Baptist He heard God the Fathers voice. When Stephen was stoned it says he looked steadfastly up into heaven and saw God the Father and Jesus Christ. To me that is a clear reference to them being two separate beings. One in purpose YES! But not one in body. Christ told us that we should be one with our wives and become one flesh.

Matt. 19: 5

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"

Gen. 2: 24

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.;

Christ told the apostles and those of us who follow him that we should be one with Him as He was one with the Father. That does not mean they were to become the same physical body with Him. It is an obvious reference to being one in spirit and mind and purpose.

John 17:20-21

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

I do not believe that a husband and wife become the same person because of that scripture and I do not believe that the Apostles became the same person as Christ. And I do not believe that Christ became the same person as God the Father because of those scriptures. It has a very clear meaning to me. It is a metaphor. To become one flesh (husband and wife) means to become one in heart and spirit and purpose. Surely that was His desire for the Apostles too. To become one in mind, heart and spirit with Him. But not the same person. And

Christ in that very same sense was then one in purpose, mind, heart and spirit with God the Father in perfectness. But not in body parts and passions.

I believe that Christ has a literal body of flesh and bone. The body He has now is of course immortal and perfect. But after He was resurrected He appeared to the apostles and said to them:

Luke 24:39

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see;
for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Where in the Bible does it say that Christ laid that body of flesh and bones down again. He had already been resurrected. He ate fish with them. He let them literally touch Him. What greater evidence could we have than that of Christ having a literal resurrected, glorified body of flesh and bone, but not blood. Blood is of this earth. Blood is mortal. His is immortal. He was able to come through the walls into the room with out opening the door or window but yet they touched Him and felt Him. That is immortal.

I also believe that He was literally resurrected, thus taking back upon Him self that body of flesh and bone that the Apostles touched. And I believe He still has that body today. And if we saw Him we could still touch His body and feel it just as the Apostles of old did.

I believe that the Holy Ghost is a separate being from God the Father and Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is a spirit and does not have a body of flesh and bone like Christ and dwells with us and prompts us to do what is right. He is an emissary for Christ in our lives and His promptings lead us to Christ if we will follow Him.

I believe that salvation only comes through Jesus Christ and the Atonement that He made for us for every nation kindred and people on this earth. All mankind. I believe that He is the creator of this world and was the God of the Old Testament (Jehovah) as well as the Christ who was born to Mary and the being that will come again to the earth in the Last days in the Second Coming.

Some people have asked if I believe that that a person receives eternal life and that all your sins are forgiven through the shed blood of Jesus. If you are a "Born Again Christian", I may differ a little in my belief on that point from your "Born Again Christians" beliefs. But YES! I believe that we receive eternal life through Jesus Christ and I believe that all of our sins are forgiven through the shedding of the blood of Christ or the Atonement.

However, I do not believe as most “Born Again Christians” do, that a person can just confess Jesus and be Born Again and then go commit adultery, rob banks, murder, take drugs and still be saved. That to me is not what Christ taught and would to me be so unjust if a person could just confess, be saved, then go right back to doing all those things again they were doing before because they are saved and still be saved. Christ never taught that and you should not be teaching it or believing it either.

Christ said, If you love me you will keep my commandments. How can you show Him that you love Him (be saved) if you don't do what He asked us to do? If you love Him you will keep His commandments. Murdering, robbing banks, committing adultery or abusing your family is not keeping His commandments - Saved or not Saved.

I believe that you only have claim on the Atonement if you repent of your sins with all your heart and do as He taught. The books of Acts is full of references about repenting and being baptized. Where does it say in Acts that you can just confess Jesus and be saved. Christ said to the woman, “go thy way and sin no more”.

John 8:11

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, **and sin no more**.

Was that just good advice Christ was giving to that woman? Or was it a commandment from Him? Thinking about that should give us a whole new perspective on loving him and keeping His commandments.

When the eunuch asked Philip to stop the chariot, Phillip asked him if he knew Jesus was the Christ. He said he did. Then they went down into the water and he was baptized. Why did he need to be baptized if he confessed Jesus to Phillip? Why wasn't the eunuch saved when he confessed Jesus to Philip?

Acts 8:35-39

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

He repented and was baptized as a part of confessing Jesus. His works were added to his faith to save him. That is the teaching of the Christ I believe in. Christ was even baptized Himself. Why would we believe we are better than Him and only need to confess His name to be saved?

It is also my belief that if we sin again all the former sins come back upon our heads. So on that point I am assuming we have a little different view.

D&C 82:7

And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.

Salvation is not based on works, but to me it is based on our life style. This life is a process of becoming. It is not important what we get in this life, it is only important what we become. And more importantly, what we are becoming. It is a process. If we truly are "Born Again" we will be literally born again spiritually and not the same person any more. We will then desire to try with all our hearts to repent and live the commandments.

I am mystified by my many friends who say they are saved and yet are not careful in any way to keep Christ's commandments. I guess what I actually believe is that you can be "UNBORN AGAIN" if you start to sin again. I do not believe that Christ will want willful sinners in His kingdom in heaven (I mean people who are still killing and immoral etc.) I believe that His grace will save us but I believe He also expects us to be on a course of trying as best we can to repent and to perfect ourselves and become like Him.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.

How do we become like him. It is a process. We build our character by our experiences. We become better by leaning from our mistakes. Perfection is a journey more than a destination. No one is perfect of course. No one but Christ ever lived who did not sin. But if we go on knowingly sinning and live a worldly life, not making any effort to repent and be like Christ in our lives, **WHY WOULD HE WANT TO HAVE US WITH HIM?**

I believe that heaven will be a place we can finally go where we don't have to worry about being mugged or killed or raped any more. We will be able

to go there and live with people who have become like Christ through repentance and living His commandments (which of course will take a life time of experiences and living and repenting in this life and the next to achieve). If I have to go on living with people who are wicked in the next life like they are here, why would I want to go to heaven? (Just my opinion).

I believe that most of our changing or perfecting will come in the next life (paradise) after death. I believe that we will go on progressing in the next life. That is how we will become like Him. No one could accomplish that in this life alone. No one can overcome all their sins in this life. That is not possible. But I believe it is possible to achieve starting in this life and continuing on in the next life. I believe that we will continue to progress and become more and more like Him as we learn and grow and accept His teachings and learn to live His commandments and on into the next life become more and more like Him "UNTO THE PERFECT DAY" as the Bible says.

Proverbs 4:18

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more **unto the perfect day**.

One last point about Christ and His teachings related to being Saved or Born Again. I have many Born Again friends who believe that if you are not Saved you will go to Hell no matter what. When I ask about someone who was born in Africa or the jungles of Brazil who never heard of Christ in their life time, no fault of their own, what will happen to them. They tell me they will go to Hell. That is the same doctrine as taught by some churches that babies who were not christened or people who did not receive last rights are going to Purgatory. That is totally un-Biblical to me. How can Christ be perfect and love us perfectly and send us to Hell for not hearing a doctrine that was never preached to us and we had no opportunity to hear? Now there you have a different Christ than I believe in.

Luke 23:43

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Why would a thief who was being crucified be with Christ in Paradise. The answer to that question lies in the definition of where Paradise is. Is that Heaven? Or is that a post mortal life that is pre-heaven. That is what I believe. And in that spirit world those who have not heard the gospel on the earth will be taught. Christ said Every knee would bow and every tongue confess

Romans 14:11

It is written: As surely as I live,¹ says the Lord, **every knee** will bow before me; **every tongue will confess** to God.

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Does “every” include those who have already died? When will that take place? Surely that could take place on this earth when people are dying every day who have not confessed Jesus. I believe that it has to be in the next life. So those Bible scriptures are telling us that every person will be taught and every person will know. I can believe in a Christ who administers that kind of justice and mercy to mankind. They may not believe, but if they had an opportunity to know and confess that Jesus is the Christ, even if they are not willing to live His commandments the judgment then would be just. If that never happened, how there could be a just and fair judgment? Every person will have to have had the same opportunity to know and accept or there could be no justice.

Now here is another thing to think about in talking about judgment and salvation.

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, **through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.** In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Now tell me where and when did Christ go and teach spirits in prison who lived in the days of Noah if that is not in the next life. The paradise where he promised the thief he would be with him. Why would he be there with Christ. So he could teach him.

And then there is this scripture where Paul is chastising the Corinthians who have started to go back to their former pre-Christian beliefs and not believe in the resurrection again. So he asks them why they are being baptized for the dead if the dead rise not at all. Something to think about.

1 Corinthians 15:28-30

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

May you receive my humble witness that Jesus is the Christ. He is the savior of this world. He is a Savior who offers salvation to all mankind, living and dead. He is the Redeemer who will give equal opportunity to all who have lived to know His name and receive or reject Him. His judgment will be just. I know that the Christ I believe in is the same Christ that you believe in. There is only one Christ, and He is the Christ born to Mary who is the Savior to all mankind, living or dead. We have the same Christ, even if we do not have full understanding of all that He was or taught. May we every strive to be like Him.

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