

## WHAT DO I BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

1. Jesus claimed to be God, not in the words, “I am God,” but in his claims for himself.  
*What if you made such claims about yourself?*
  - \* Authority to forgive sins – Matt 9:1-8
  - \* Authority over the Sabbath and temple – Matt 12:1-14; 21:12ff
  - \* Authority over death – John 11:25
  - \* Authority to encourage prayer in his own name – John 16:24
  - \* Authority to speak for God – John 14:10
  - \* Authority to promise a resurrection from the dead – Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34
  - \* Authority to promise a return in the clouds – Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:26
  - \* Authority to promise a reign from heaven and sitting in judgment – Matt 7:21ff
  
2. To become a Christian is to accept the claims of Jesus and to put our trust in him.  
*What did you confess about Jesus when you came to believe?*
  
3. But the Gospels also teach that Jesus was fully human:  
*Can we tell that Jesus was really human in the Bible?*
  - \* Jesus developed physically and mentally – Luke 2:52
  - \* Jesus grew tired and hungry – John 4:6
  - \* Jesus did not know the date of his second coming – Matt 24:36
  - \* Jesus was tempted to sin – Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15
  
4. Arianism overemphasized these references to conclude that Jesus was not God.
  - \* Arius – Christian teacher, 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.
  - \* They misinterpreted “firstborn” in Rom 8:29; Col 1:15-20
  - \* They diminished the references to Jesus’ eternality in John 8:58; 10:30
  - \* They downplayed the presence of Jesus with God in the beginning – John 1:1-2
  - \* They missed the use of “firstborn” as a position of high status – Gen 49:3; Exod 11:3; Heb 11:13
  - \* Modern representatives of Arianism = JW, Mormons, Way International
  
5. Jesus does submit himself to God’s plan:
  - \* Jesus was speaking words the Father gave him – John 7:16; 12:49
  - \* Jesus was submitting himself to the Father’s will – Luke 22:41-42
  
6. The New Testament makes Jesus fully God and encourages worship of Jesus as God:  
*What difference does this doctrine of Christ mean to how I live?*
  - \* Listen to Jesus as you would listen to God – Matt 17:5 (Transfiguration)
  - \* Believe in Jesus as you would believe in God – John 14:1-2
  - \* Refer to Jesus with names reserved for God, like “Lord” – John 20:28
  - \* Trust that Jesus will bring us back from death – John 11:26
  - \* Worship Jesus on Sunday morning with the believers – Revelation 4-5