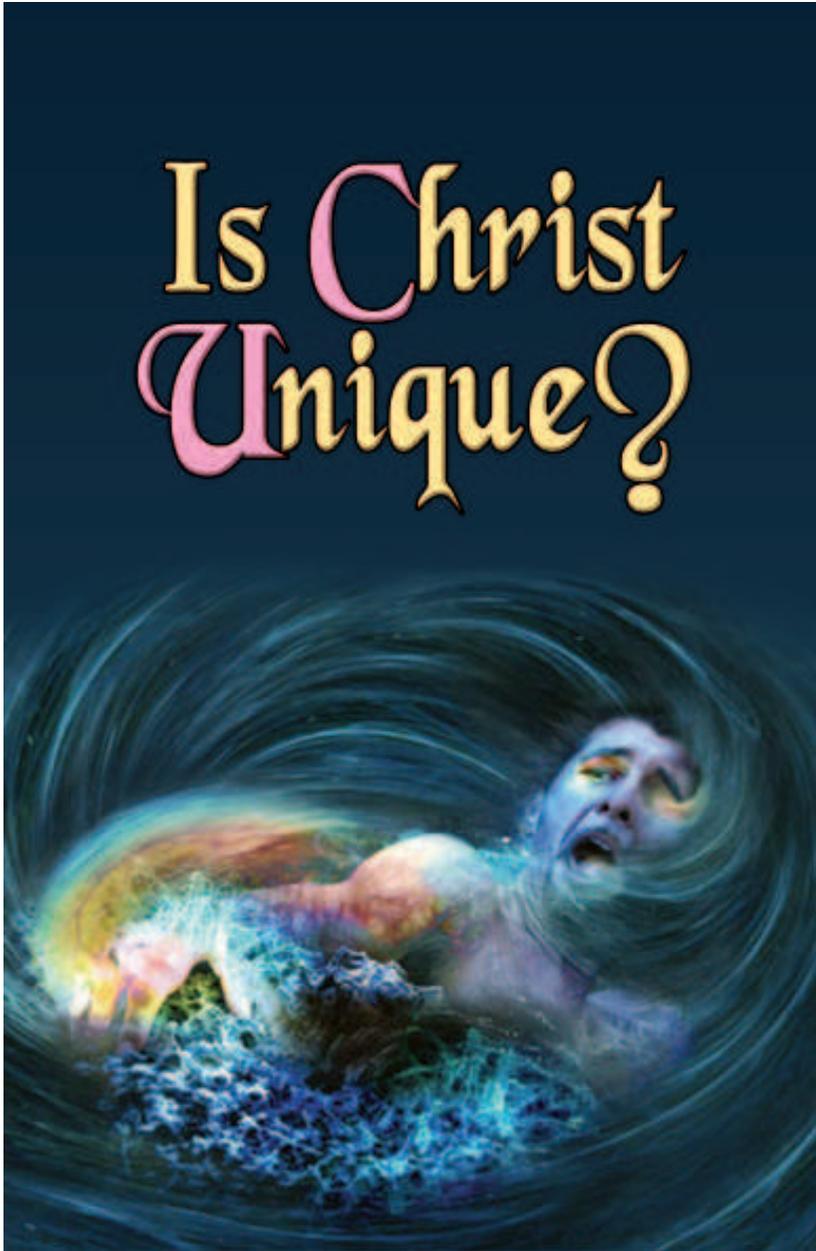


Is Christ Unique?



Is Christ Unique?

Jesus Christ is the centre of all history. That's why history is divided as "Before Christ" (BC) and "After Christ" (AD). There's no history apart from Him. Strictly speaking, history is "His" story! Here are at least six reasons why we say that Christ is unique.

1. No one was ever born like Jesus Christ.

Jesus was born as a baby over 2000 years ago in Asia. The details like how and where He would be born were predicted thousands of years ago. You and I were born to a father and mother. But Jesus was born of a virgin without the help of a man. Let's see why this happened so—

It's God who created us. Our first parents disobeyed His Word and went astray from Him. That is sin. God loves the sinners, but He hates sin! It's a divine law that there can be no remission of sins without shedding of blood. The entire mankind has sinned. Where to go for sinless blood? God alone is absolutely holy, without sin; but He does not have a physical body. The only solution was that God should be born as a man. This is what happened on the first Christmas. Christ as God has no beginning. He had been there even before Christmas. His birth was only a happening in His eternal being. Yes, no one was ever born like Christ.

2. No one ever lived like Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus took the human form, He was subject to all sorts of temptations. Though He was tempted in all areas, just like you and me, He never yielded to any temptation. He remained sinless. This is what the Bible says. He was perfectly sinless in His thoughts; He was perfectly sinless in His words; He was perfectly sinless in His deeds. He could even challenge His opposers, “Which one of you can point out a sin in Me?”

One of the earlier Presidents of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, was once a Professor in a College in Chennai. While he lectured on the topic of “*Guru and Discipleship*,” a student rose up and asked him, “Sir, can I keep you as my *Guru*?” Dr. Radhakrishnan’s instant reply was: “I am a Hindu philosopher; even then if you look for an absolutely perfect *Guru*, that can be Jesus only!” Yes, dear friend, no one ever lived like Christ!

3. No one ever spoke/taught like Jesus Christ.

There’s no equal to the teachings of Jesus. His “Sermon on the Mount” is an example. You may read it at the beginning of the second half of the Bible. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, used to say, “No one is complete until he has read the Sermon on the Mount of Jesus!” “If someone slaps you on the right cheek, show him the left also!”—Such sayings are from this Sermon only. “Good will towards men” was a dominant theme in His discourses.

There is a gulf of difference between Jesus and the religions or the philosophers of the world. If you ask an *avatar* or a philosopher, “Which is the way to life?”, he would answer, “This is the way” or “That is the way.” When this question was once put before Jesus, He did not say, “This

is the way” or “That is the way.” Rather He said, “**I am the Way!**” He also added, “No one can come to Heaven without Me!” Not that “I am one of the ways,” but “I am *the* Way.” Not that “I am one of the truths,” but “I am *the* Truth.” Not that “I am one of the principles of life,” but “I am *the* Life.” Jesus did not go in search of truth; He Himself came as the Truth. He did not come to teach how to live; but He came to give life to mankind.

Those who listened to the words of Jesus were carpenters, farmers, shepherds, lawyers, rich men, poor people, politicians, religious leaders, youngsters, old people and so on. Uniformly they testified, “No man ever spoke like this man!” He proclaimed the Truth without fear or favour. He raised his voice against meaningless rituals and useless traditions. Yes, no one ever spoke or taught like Christ.

4. No one ever worked like Jesus Christ.

Sickness, demons, death and nature are the four major fears of men. Because Jesus was God who came in human form, there was nothing that was impossible for Him. God is Omnipotent, isn’t it? Jesus had absolute authority and power on these four forces.

Jesus healed the people who came to Him with all kinds of **sicknesses**. He gave sight to the blind. He made the dumb to speak. He opened the ears of the deaf. He made the lame to walk. He compassionately touched the untouchable lepers and healed them.

We cannot fully describe the power Jesus had on **demons**. He cast out demons just by a few words. No demon was able to resist His words. Demons cringed before Him and fled away. Evil spirits cried out, “Why did You come to torment us?”

The power Jesus had over **death** was amazing. He did not raise all the dead. Because, it's the divine order that we all die once and face judgement. However, in order to prove His power over death, Jesus raised a few dead people. He stopped the funeral procession of a young man, touched his body and raised him. He brought to life another young man after four days of death from the grave.

It's God who created the entire universe, isn't it? As the Creator, Jesus had absolute authority over **nature**. He stopped the fury of nature with a single word. Once during a sea voyage with His disciples, when the boat was capsized in a storm, He stood up and commanded the sea and the wind, "Be still!" There was instant calm. Everyone was surprised beyond measure. Who does not know the havoc that storms and floods cause? We can thus go on listing His mighty deeds. Yes, no one ever worked like Christ!

5. No one ever died like Jesus Christ.

Jesus had known from the beginning when, where and how He would die. He voluntarily gave His life for us. He was not murdered. He died Himself. He had said, "I have authority to both lay down My life and take it back." He died on a cross which was the most cruel form of capital punishment in the Roman Empire.

Jesus died for me and for you and for everyone in this world. He has given His life even for those who are yet to be born. There are several folks who were martyred for noble causes. But the One who gave His life for the sins of the entire mankind is only Jesus. **Jesus carried our sins on the cross** so we may receive the forgiveness of sins. He endured shame and insult on the cross so we may live with dignity and respect. He literally became a curse for us so we may live with divine blessings.

6. No one ever rose again like Jesus Christ.

It's true no one ever died like Jesus; but death was not the end of His life. **He rose again on the third day**. He appeared to His disciples during a period of 40 days to show Himself alive. He is still alive today. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, there would have been no Christianity. It would not have spread all over the world. Forty days after His resurrection Jesus ascended back to Heaven. The Creator of the universe cannot be boxed in any building. God is a spirit. He makes our hearts His temple. Jesus is the only answer to the endless disputes in our country over places of worship!

After resurrection Jesus commissioned His disciples, "Go all over the world and spread the **Good News** about Me." He commanded them to preach **forgiveness of sins in His Name** to men and women everywhere. It was in obedience to this command, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus by name Thomas came to India. The St. Thomas Mount in Chennai is a memorial. Yes, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has a history of over 2000 years in India. The Europeans and Westerners came to India much later, after several centuries. Jesus was not born in the East or the West but in the Middle East!

Philosophy or Saviour?

A mischievous little boy, running carelessly across the road, fell into a pool of water. He was struggling for life as he didn't know swimming. An elderly gentleman came that way. With all concern he told the little boy, "Son, be careful hereafter while walking on the road!" and passed by. Another gentleman came that way. He told the little boy, "I can

understand your mischievousness, but you ought to have learnt swimming. Learn it as soon as you can!” Dear friend, all these are sound advices no doubt; but how do they help the little boy at this critical moment? Another person, who came near the spot, dived into the pool and rescued the boy. All religions teach good principles and philosophies to man. But what the sinking man in the sea of sin needs is not philosophy; he needs a **Saviour** to rescue him. This is who Jesus is!

Friend, this is not a religious propaganda. No religion, including Christianity, can save anyone from sin. What we sinners need is a Saviour!

Jesus who ascended back to Heaven after resurrection said in parting with His disciples, “I will come again.” Jesus calls everyone with love and compassion, “Come to Me!” He cares the less whether you are good or bad. There is no caste distinction before Him; everyone is the same for Him. He passionately desires that every man and woman receives the forgiveness of sins and salvation. Today He stands before us as the “Saviour.” When He returns to the world, He would stand before us as a “Judge.” Friend, the choice here is personally yours.

God’s blessing to you!

We would explain to you simply three things you must do. You can do this from wherever you are.

First, tell God, “**I am sinner.**” Our religious ceremonies or charitable deeds can never satisfy an absolutely holy God.

Secondly, believe, “**Christ died for my sins and rose again on the third day.**” Say, “Jesus is my Sinbearer.”

Thirdly, offer this prayer:

“O God, I’m a sinner. I believe in my heart that Jesus died for my sins and rose again on the third day. Forgive my sins and make me Your child. I offer this prayer in the Name of Jesus. Be it so!”

Friend, your sins are now forgiven. You are becoming a child of God. The assurance of forgiveness of sins and the joy of salvation will overflow in your heart. This is not a change of religion but of mind!

If you desire to know more about Jesus Christ and His teachings, get a copy of the Bible either from a bookshop or a Christian friend. Read it regularly.

We lovingly wish you God’s blessings on you and your family.