

# Who Is Jesus?

Crucial Questions

**R. C. SPROUL**

**Who Is Jesus?**

Crucial Questions booklets provide a quick introduction to definitive Christian truths. This expanding collection includes titles such as:

Who Is Jesus?

Can I Trust the Bible?

Does Prayer Change Things?

Can I Know God's Will?

How Should I Live in This World?

What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

Can I Be Sure I'm Saved?

What Is Faith?

What Can I Do with My Guilt?

What Is the Trinity?

TO BROWSE THE REST OF THE SERIES,  
PLEASE VISIT: [LIGONIER.ORG/CQ](http://LIGONIER.ORG/CQ)

CQ

# Who Is Jesus?

R. C. SPROUL



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

*Who Is Jesus?*

© 2017 by R.C. Sproul

Published by Ligonier Ministries  
421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771  
Ligonier.org

Printed in China  
Amity Printing Company  
0000823

Second edition, fifth printing

ISBN 978-1-64289-036-5 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-1-64289-064-8 (ePub)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, Ligonier Ministries. The only exception is brief quotations in published reviews.

Cover design: Ligonier Creative  
Interior typeset: Katherine Lloyd, The DESK

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Material in this book has previously been published in *Everyone's a Theologian* (2014). Some material in this book has previously been published as *Who Is Jesus?* (1983) and as part of *Following Christ* (1991), as *Who Is Jesus?* (1999), and as *Who Is Jesus?* (2010).

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Control Number: 2017023436

## Contents

<b>One</b>	The Christ of the Bible . . . . .	1
<b>Two</b>	One Person, Two Natures . . . . .	17
<b>Three</b>	The Names of Christ. . . . .	27
<b>Four</b>	The States of Christ . . . . .	41
<b>Five</b>	The Offices of Christ . . . . .	57



## Chapter One

# The Christ of the Bible

There are vast numbers of portraits of Jesus in the art galleries of this world. These images are often conflicting and offer different impressions of what Christ might have looked like during His incarnation. There were no cameras back then, of course, and we have no images of Him from His time, so any idea about Jesus' physical form is pure conjecture.

This multiplicity of images of Christ in art galleries parallels the widespread confusion about Jesus' identity that



exists in the world today. The many theories about Christ's identity in circulation are attempts to answer a question that Jesus Himself once asked His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" This question is so important that one's eternal fate hinges upon the answer one gives.

Unfortunately, most ideas about Christ's identity today are born of empty speculation or created to squeeze into a philosopher's pattern rather than drawn from Scripture. The "Christs" that are born this way simply won't do. A recycled Christ, a Christ of compromise, or an imaginary Christ can redeem no one. A Christ who is watered down, stripped of power, debased of glory, reduced to a symbol, or made impotent by scholarly surgery is not Christ but anti-christ—because to supplant the real Jesus with a substitute is to work against Christ. To change or distort the real Christ is to oppose Him with a false Christ. To be redeemed, and to have assurance of our salvation, we must rid ourselves of these imitations. We need Christ—the *real* Christ.

### The Depth of Christ

It is significant that our faith is called "Christianity," for our attention is rightly focused on the One who has redeemed

us. And the place we must go to learn about Christ is His holy Word, for it alone speaks utterly truthfully about our Savior. But, because the portrait of Jesus in Scripture is so deep, because it defies human ability to grasp it exhaustively, any study of the person of Christ can only scratch the surface.

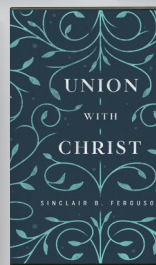
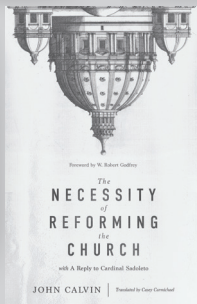
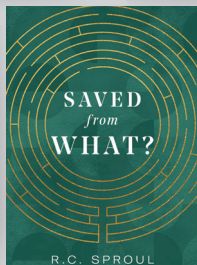
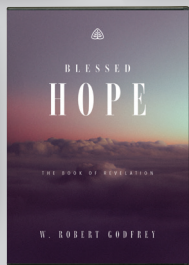
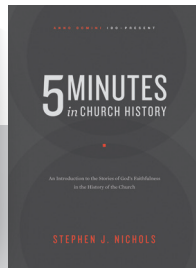
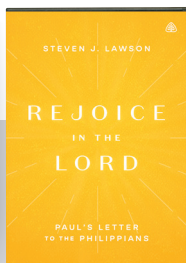
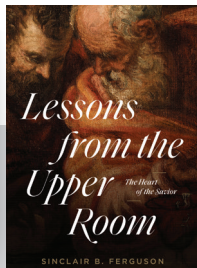
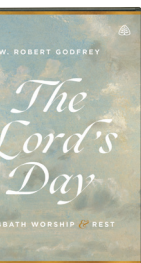
Consider the Apostle John's portrait of Christ in the book of Revelation. John sets the stage for Christ's appearance by presenting a conundrum:

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. (Rev. 5:1-3)

In John's vision of heaven, he is filled with anticipation as he waits to see who will step up, who will be declared worthy to open the scroll. He continues:

I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one

We want to see men and women  
around the world connect the deep truths  
of the Christian faith to everyday life.



Order your copy of this title, download the digital version,  
or browse thousands of resources at **Ligonier.org**.



LIGONIER MINISTRIES