**Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up!**

There are a lot of Jesus’ out there. I want to worship the real one.

But this is nothing new.

I will be identifying some of the false Jesus’ of history and out there today.

Then I will attempt to describe the real Jesus.

Some Jesus’ in history

The created Jesus (Arminius, Jehovah Witness)

Jesus who was not a person (Modalist, Unitarian, Oneness Pentacostal)

The Mormon Jesus

The Hindu/Buddhist Jesus

The Calvinist Jesus

The black/ethnic Jesus

The liberal Jesus

The Universalist Jesus (the nice Jesus who does not judge anyone)

The prosperity Jesus. The cosmic butler.

The magical Jesus

The crucified Saviour/God Jesus

**I. The created Jesus**

This is the Jesus of Arius/Arianism and the Jesus of the Jehovah Witness

This a Jesus who is not deity. He was created.

Arius: There was a time when he was not. Dealt with at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325

The Watchtower Society

Jesus is not God. Jesus is the first and highest of created beings. Jesus is an angel. He is *the* archangel Michael. (“Michael the great prince is none other than Jesus Christ Himself” (*The Watchtower, Dec, 1984, p 29.)*

Does this matter? Yes! 1 John 2:22 Wrong Jesus = Antichrist.

Jesus: John 8:58-59 “Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I AM.” At this they picked up stones to stone him….

John 10:30 I and the Father are one. v. 33 We are stoning you….because you, a mere man, claim to be God.

Coll 1:16 If Jesus was created, then all things were not created through him.

John 20:28 Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Titus 2:13 Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

II. Jesus who is not a person.

He is just God in disguise. This is the person who rejects the idea of trinity.

Historically, this is called Modalism. It is also called Sabelianism after its chief proponent in the 3rd century Sabelius.

God can appear as a Father, or God can reveal himself as a Savior/Son, or he can reveal himself as the Holy Spirit. These are different “modes” of God.

Sabellianism is the belief that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three different modes or aspects of God, as opposed to a Trinitarian view of three distinct persons within the Godhead.

They do not deny that Jesus is God but deny the “persons” of the Trinity.

Current manifestations:

Unitarian Universalists A very liberal denomination (my sister and two of my brothers…)

Oneness Pentacostals. Jesus-only baptism.

United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW). Millions in the US alone.

Matthew 28:18-20 Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Why is this a problem? Because trinity is about love. It is about relationship. It is about the relational nature of God himself.

John 10:30 I and the Father are One. Modalism? No!

Jesus: Father, into your hand I commit my spirit. Who is he talking to?

**III. The Mormon Jesus**

This is the Jesus who is a person, who is a god, but so are you and so am I.

Joseph Smith declared, "I will preach on the plurality of Gods. I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 370).

In April, Joseph Smith preaches perhaps his most famous sermon. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil so that you may see...He was once a man like us; yea that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did...Here, then is eternal life...you have got learn how to be Gods yourselves,...the same as all Gods have done before you" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-46). (See 1829, 1842a, 1844c, d.)

**IV. The Hindu/Buddhist Jesus**

This is the Jesus who is a great guru. He is a sage. He is a wise man. He is a god/man. But then, because this is pantheism, we are all “god”

This is the Jesus who is the Western equivalent of Krishna.

An emanation and embodiment and avatar of “god.”

This is the Jesus who is one of many great religious figures who show us what God is like and who have a wise path, all of which leads to the same place, which is to find the god-nature in yourself.

This is the Jesus you find by doing yoga and focusing on your inner god-self.

This is the Jesus you find within by finding your center. This is the centeredness movement in our schools.

This is the Jesus who will tell you that you are God.

The problem:

1. You are not God.

2. Krishna is not a real person.

3. Buddha never claimed to be God.

1 Timothy 2:5 There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

**V. The Calvinist Jesus**

This is the Jesus of Calvinistic Christianity/Reformed theology

This is the Jesus of Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin

This is the Jesus of Presbyterianism, and almost all Baptists, and nearly all of Evangelical Christianity.

This is the Jesus of Original Sin. In Adam’s fall we sinned all.”

Ezekiel 18:1-24 The son does not share the sin of the father and the father does not share the sin of the son. The soul who sins will die.

(So, what did happen in the “Fall” of Adam?)

Zwingli: “Those individuals who end up damned forever in hell are also eternally determined by God for that fate.”

Calvin: We call predestination God’s eternal decree, by which he determined with himself what he willed to become of each man. For all are not created in equal condition; rather, eternal life is foreordained for some, eternal damnation for others. Therefore, as any man has been created to one or the other of these ends, we speak of him as predestined to life or death.”

Predestination to life is called “election,” while predestination to hell is called “reprobation.”

Calvin himself writes, “We assert that by an eternal and immutable counsel, God has once for all determined both whom he would admit to salvation and whom he would condemn to destruction” (Institutes 3.21.7).

This is the Jesus who died for only a tiny minority of all people.

This is the Jesus who died for the elect only.

This is the Jesus of TULIP (Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the Saints)

This is the Jesus who saves by “faith alone” (because we are totally depraved)

This is the Jesus who chooses who gets saved—you have no part in this.

This is the Jesus of “Once saved, always saved”

This is the Jesus who you pray into your heart

1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

[Luke 2:10 Good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 2 Cor 5:14 For we are convinced that one died for all. John 12:32 But when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself. Titus 2:11 For the grace of God which brings salvation has appeared to all men.]

**VI. The Black Jesus/The White Jesus/The ethnic Jesus**

These are people who insist that Jesus was a black African.

There used to be people who insisted he was white. This is a shameful history!!!

This is the Jesus who gets involved in racial politics. This is the Jesus who is either Republican or Democratic. This is a Jesus who divides us rather than uniting us.

This is the Jesus of socialism. This is the Jesus of capitalism.

Q: Does the color of his skin matter?

Q: Does his ethnicity matter?

Q: Bottom line, was Jesus black? Was he white?

A question at my web site:

I thank you for highlighting that Jesus Christ was a REAL person and his story can be backed up by multiple accounts. I am a believer. But, my question to you is why did you omit the facts on Jesus’s black skin color or African Hebrew heritage. It is convenient for one to say that Jesus’ color or his TRUE African heritage does not matter. But, it does. If the majority of people knew that the blond hair, blue eyes, and Caucasian-skinned depiction of Jesus are simply a fabrication and a counterfeit, would they still worship him? It is a BASIC truth that Jesus was black. Please conduct your own research and answer the question–why does the church continually depict Jesus as a being Caucasian when, in fact, he is of African decent? Why lighten the skin of Jesus and deny the melatonin in him? Here are some starters: Biblical references: Isaiah 53:2 and Revelation 1: 14-15.

This is not the Jesus of the Bible, who was Jewish and probably appeared like a Palestinian today, and who did not use the weapons of the world, such as politics or race.

This is the Jesus who divides people over worldly questions.

Q: Does Jesus divide people? Yes! Luke 12:49-53 Righteous from sinners.

**VII. The liberal Jesus**

Progressive Jesus

This is the Jesus who was merely a social revolutionary—a preacher of social justice only.

Did Jesus care about social justice issues? Of Course! But Jesus is more than that. He is God!

This is the Jesus of scholars who deny the inspiration of the Bible.

This is the Jesus of the Jesus Seminar who believe that the Jesus of scripture was the creation of Christians in the second century—who never claimed to be God, who never worked miracles, and who did not even intend to start a religious movement.

These people forget that Jesus did fulfill prophecies.

These people ignore the fact of the empty tomb.

**VIII. The Universalist Jesus (nice Jesus who does not judge anyone)**

The non-judgmental Jesus.

The Jesus who denies the existence of hell.

The Jesus of funerals

The Jesus of most Americans. Does this include us? Do we minimize God’s wrath?

The Jesus of Unitarians.

Q: Is God “nice?)

John 12:48 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but the save the world.”

That is true. Jesus’ purpose in coming to the earth was to save, not to judge.

After all, Jesus was “gentle and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey”

And Jesus was the man about whom it was said, “a bruised reed he did not break.”

But, Jesus will judge!

2 Timothy 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word!

But Jesus will come again, and this time it will be as Savior and Judge. He will be riding on a white horse.

Amos 5:24 Let justice roll on like a river. Rev 6:10 How long, O God, before you avenge our deaths?

This is the Jesus of the Parable of the banquet. The man who does not have the proper clothes

Gal 3:26

This is the Jesus of Ezekiel 9-11 who abandoned his people because of their idolatry.

**IX. The Prosperity Gospel Jesus.**

The cosmic butler. The Prayer of Jabez Jesus.

This is the Jesus who promises you health, prosperity and happiness.

This is the Jesus of most Christianity in America today.

This is the Jesus of Christianity emerging in the global South—especially in Africa, almost without exception.

This is the Jesus who serves us but who we do not have to serve him as Lord.

This is the Jesus of Joel Osteen

This is the Jesus preached in most pulpits in America on Sunday morning.

This is the Jesus of the Jews in Malachi.

Jeremiah 29:11 God wants to prosper you. True, but remember Jeremiah 29:10

Phil 3:10 “I want to know Christ—yes to know the power of the resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death…”

Phil 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

2 Tim 3:12 “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

**X. The magical Jesus**

This is the Jesus who will heal all sickness.

This is the Jesus who has a single, particular person in mind for you to marry.

The Charismatic Jesus.

The God who is always “opening doors” or “closing doors.” (rather than letting us decide using our God-given wisdom and advice of wise counsel)

The God who told me this or that.

A recent question at my web site: My pastor told me that God will heal all diseases and if I do not believe this then I do not have faith in God.

The Problem: This is not the biblical Jesus.

Jesus is concerned with spiritual illness, primarily, not physical illness.

Jesus did heal many out of compassion.

And God will answer prayer today. God can and will heal people if it is his will

But all of us will get sick.

All of us will get old.

All of us will die.

2 Cor 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it [the physical infirmity Paul had] away from me. But he said to me, “My power is made perfect

**XI. The crucified and risen Saviour/God Jesus**

This is the Jesus of the Bible—the actual one!

Mark 10:45 For the Son of God did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

1 Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.