

Who Do YOU Say That Jesus Is?

By Bob Young

Who is Jesus? This question points to the foundational cornerstone of our Christian faith. In Mark 8, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say I am?” Then he asked them, “Who do YOU say I am?” (emphasis mine) **Faith will falter and fail unless Jesus’ identity and nature are clearly in view.** The contemporary church spends too little time declaring who Jesus is.

This question -- the question of who Jesus is, the person and nature of Christ – was one of the great controversies of the early church. Today we are too seldom reminded that we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us and waged great theological battles. Today in many churches, the identity of Jesus is taken for granted, never preached, never studied. “Everyone knows who Jesus is.” But the reality is that very few could give an accurate, biblical explanation of Jesus’ person and nature!

In the New Testament, we see that false teaching about Jesus existed in the first century. New Testament writers addressed such false teachings. Some were denying Jesus’ humanity. A little later, in the later years of the first century, some were denying Jesus’ deity. The councils at Nicea in A.D. 325 and at Chalcedon in A.D. 451 sought to summarize the biblical teaching about who Jesus was as both God and man, divine and human, two natures united in one person. The teachings that came from those councils are part of our Christology. Those teachings clarified fundamental biblical truths on which our faith still stands today. What is easily glossed over in the study of church history is the story of those who devoted their lives to promoting the truth about who Jesus is and responding to false teachings. When the church fails to affirm vigorously the identity of Jesus, many will fail to develop a robust faith and will easily be led astray.

“Who Jesus Is” is today a teaching as important, or perhaps more important, than ever. The church must grasp, affirm, and speak continually about who Jesus is. Such is essential for our own faith, for the developing faith of future generations, and for the effective proclamation of the gospel. The gospel matters because of who Jesus is. We can never assume that everyone knows. We can never grow lax, thinking that the next generation has this biblical teaching well in mind. Sharing the gospel must begin with who Jesus is.

Note: production has taken longer than anticipated, but the release of the new video study series, “Who Is Jesus?” is anticipated in 2024.