

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

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For most millennials like myself, Google has become the staple for our everyday lives. From finding local pizza joints to learning how to make an oil change on our vehicles, Google can teach us anything with a single search. You can ask almost anything, and you will get as many possible results as you can. There is one question that is asked frequently among the search engine and that question would be *Who is Jesus Christ?* If you were to search that question on Google right now, you'd get around 411,000,000 results in 0.64 seconds.

Did you get that? In less than one second, Google will give you around 400 million websites worldwide on who Christ is and as amazing as that would sound, you will get some of these different answers from different websites:

- Jesus was a great teacher, but He wasn't God
- Jesus was a prophet, but He didn't die on the cross
- He was the archangel Michael
- He was a progressive revolutionary fighting the Roman oppressive system
- He was a republican who supported conservative values
- He was a laidback guy who wanted to get along with everyone

- He was a Tibetan monk who went back to Israel to teach Buddhism to the Jews
- He was the Son of God who came and died for our sins

It just doesn't end there. You will get different answers from different websites. The top question lies though: *which of these answers is the right one?* Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one gets to the father except through me." (John 14:6 ESV). If Jesus is not just *a way* to the Father but *the way* to Him, it is real important to know where we are getting our information about who He is.

But who do *you* say that I am?

Jesus's apostles went through a similar situation in Matthew 16. As Jesus was becoming more and more popular, everybody was talking about Him, yet not everybody came to the same conclusion on who He really was. Jesus being aware of this asked the twelve apostles "Who do you say that the Son of Man is?". The apostles responded by saying "well *some* say you're John the Baptist, yet others say you're Jeremiah, or one of the prophets". It is easy to answer by pointing the fingers at others rather than exposing your own opinion. Some of us when asked this question can easily respond with answers such as "my *abuelita* taught me who Jesus is" or "I learned who Jesus was in seminary". Some answers might be correct, but still Jesus wants to know what *you* yourself say who He is.

But I've been to church my entire life

Some of you may say "But Ed, I'm a Christian! I grew up in church my entire life and even attended the Sunday class and Youth group growing up.. I'm pretty sure I know who Jesus is!". You still need to ask yourself who Jesus Christ is to you. It doesn't matter if you grew up in church, or that your parents are Christian, or that you lead a ministry; you still need to reevaluate who Christ is in your life. The apostles walked with Jesus, ate with Him, heard Him preach, were personally mentored by Him, and even saw Him raise Lazarus from the dead yet when confronted with this question, only Peter answered correctly. It doesn't matter how long you've been walking with Him, sometimes we can get off track and forget the glory of our Lord and Savior. We can get so distracted with the opinions of others that we tend to forget who He has been in our lives up to now.

Jesus is more than just a Google search

In Matthew 16:17, Peter answers that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. Jesus tells Peter that God Himself has revealed that to him. Even throughout the opinions and beliefs of others towards Jesus, God Himself was the one that revealed the authority of Jesus as the Messiah and as the Son of God. A.W. Tozer once said that “what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”. It’s very important to understand where we are getting our information about God and if Jesus is the Son of God and God Himself through the trinity, it is important to understand who He is and where we get our information about Him. The Bible is the Word of God and through its 66 books, God has revealed who He is from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible teaches us that “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV).

My friends, I want to encourage you today to go beyond a Google search and the opinions of others and begin to pray and ask God for wisdom on who Christ is (James 1:5) and seek Him through His word. What you will learn about Him will be the most important thing about you and what you learn through His gospel, His good news, will leave you desiring to know more and more of Him.