

DaVinci on Deity by Rodney L. Brown

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One assertion of the recent movie “The DaVinci Code” is that Jesus never claimed to be God. Is this true? What did Jesus say about Himself?

- He called the temple “my Father’s house” (Jn. 2:16), and referred to God as “my Father” (Matt. 16:17; 18:11, 19; Jn. 5:17; 6:32, 40; 10:17-18, 25, 29; 12:26; 14:2, 7, 20-21, 23, 31; 20:17, etc.) In Jn. 8:54, Jesus said, “My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.”
- Often Jesus claimed to have come “from heaven” or to have been “sent” from the Father (Jn. 3:13; 5:23, 30, 36, 37; 6:29, 38, 39, 43, 51, 57; 7:16, 28-29, 33; 8:16, 18, 23, 28-29; 12:49; 14:24, etc.) In Jn. 8:42, Jesus said, “I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own, but he sent me.” It was precisely because they understood His claim that some took offense at Him (Jn. 6:42).
- When the Samaritan woman spoke of the coming Messiah (called Christ), Jesus answered, “I who speak to you am he” (Jn. 4:25-26).
- Of the Old Testament Jesus said, “These are the Scriptures that testify about me . . .” (Jn. 5:40). And again, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me” (Jn. 5:46).
- Jesus claimed, “I am the bread of life” (Jn. 6:35, 41, 48, 51), “I am the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12; 9:5), “I am the gate for the sheep” (Jn. 10:7, 9), “I am the good shepherd: (Jn. 10:11, 14), “I am the resurrection and the life” (Jn. 11:25), “I am the way,

the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6), and “I am the true vine” (Jn. 15:1, 5). He said, “If you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be] you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24), “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [the one I claim to be] . . .” (Jn. 8:28), an “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!” (Jn. 8:58). Each time Jesus used the sacred name of God, “I AM” (see Ex. 3:13-14) applying it to himself. (By the way, at least one of these titles — “the good shepherd” - is from an Old Testament Messianic prophecy (Ezek. 34:11-24).

- When Peter declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16), Jesus did not deny it, nor rebuke Peter. Instead, He praised Peter saying, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven” (Matt. 16:17).
- Jesus asked the blind man whom He had healed if he believed in the Son of Man. And when the healed man asked who it was, so that he could believe in him, Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you” (Jn. 9:35-37).
- To the Jews at the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem (Jn. 10:22 f) who demanded, “If you are the Christ, tell us plainly” (Jn. 10:24), Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me . . .” (Jn.

10:25). To these same Jews He said, “I and the Father are one” (Jn. 10:30).

- To His disciples in the upper room, Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9). “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me . . .” (Jn. 14:11).
- On trial before the Sanhedrin, it was demanded of Jesus, “Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God” (Matt. 26:63), to which He responded, “Yes, it is as you say” (Matt. 26:64; Mk. 14:61-62; Lk. 22:66-70).
- On trial before Pilate, Jesus was asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Yes, it is as you say” (Matt. 27:11; Mk. 15:2; Lk. 23:3).

One justification scoffers use for saying the Jesus did not claim divinity is His frequent description of himself as the ‘Son of Man’ (as opposed to ‘Son of God’). But it should be noted that ‘Son of Man’ is itself a Messianic title taken from Dan. 7:13-14. Furthermore, Jesus’ own use of the title ‘Son of Man’ shows it is much more than an emphasis of humanity. For example, the ‘Son of Man’ commands angels (Matt. 13:41), “is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels . . .” (Matt. 16:27), “sits on his glorious throne . . . Judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28), has gone into and come from heaven (Jn. 3:13), has authority from the Father to judge (Jn. 5:27), gives food that endures to eternal life (Jn. 6:27), etc.

Men may accept or reject the claims of Jesus, but let none be so dishonest as to say He did not claim divinity.