

# Lunatic, Liar, Or Lord?

[Read John 10:22-39...] Three times in John 10, Jesus claimed to be deity/divine – “I and My Father are one” (verse 30); “I am the Son of God” (verse 36); “the Father is in Me, and I in Him” (verse 38). The Jews who were in His audience understood His claims of Godhood. In fact, that was the specific reason for their intended rebuke recorded in verse 33 – “You, being a Man, make Yourself God”.

Were the claims of Jesus about being God false or true? If they were false, then He was either a lunatic [did not know that His claims were false] or He was a liar [did know that His claims were false]. However, if His claims of Godhood were true, then He was/is the Lord [God]. Which was Jesus – a lunatic, a liar, or the Lord? The goal of this sermon is to present evidence to help us answer this vital question...

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**Skeptics allege that the gospel accounts are unreliable and should not be used as evidence of the deity/divinity of Jesus. Is their claim actually true? No! They certainly have not proven that the gospel accounts are not trustworthy – they just presume it!**

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## WAS JESUS A LUNATIC?

If He did not know that His claims of deity/divinity were false because He was sincerely deluded, then He was a lunatic – an insane person (Mark 3:20-21; John 10:19-20).

But, insanity does not adequately account for His miracles (John 3:1-2; 11:43-48; cf. Acts 2:22).

Insanity does not adequately explain His excellent reasoning ability (Luke 2:41-47; Matthew 22:15,22-23,33-35,41,46).

Delusions of divinity are not consistent with His exemplary humility (Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-5,12-15).

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## WAS JESUS A LIAR?

If He claimed to be deity/divine, but knew that He was not, then He deliberately lied (John 1:17; 14:6).

Some people claim that Jesus was not deity/divine, but He was a “good” man. Or, He was a “good” moral teacher. But, neither scenario can possibly be true because a “good” man [righteous person] does not lie (Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8)!

If He lied about being God, then He was a hypocrite [a pretender] because He condemned lying (John 8:42-47,53-55).

If He lied about being God, then He was quite a “con man” and an evil deceiver because He convinced His followers that He could give them eternal life (John 3:14-18; 6:66-69).

If He lied about being God, then He was a fool because His claim of deity/divinity was the very thing that led to His death/execution (Matthew 26:62-66; John 19:5-7).

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## WAS/IS JESUS THE LORD?

For the honest, open-minded person, the evidence presented in this sermon eliminates the possibility that Jesus was either a lunatic or a liar. Hence, the only valid conclusion that remains is that His claims of Godhood were actually true. In other words, Jesus was [and still is] the Lord/God!