

**II Peter 3:3-6** – There are many people who fit into the category of the sinners in this text. They can be very different, but they all have 2 things in common. First, there are worldly things that they really really want to do. Second, to justify such things, they in some way minimize the relevance of God.

I mean, if God is all that the Word claims him to be, then - **I Peter 4:3** – the time already past is sufficient to do what I want to do, and the rest of my life belongs to God. But if I can shrink God, even the slightest bit, then it opens up space for some of those carnal things.

Folks in this category range from all out atheists who deny God's existence, to spiritual people who simply reject the concept of religion, to people who attend churches weekly but have put God in a Sunday box, and maybe even to someone sitting here today, who has some singular doubt about God in their mind that is disallowing Him to have full control.

In order to facilitate that process, people have to believe things about God that just aren't true. We call these "myths." I have this book: Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts. It was last updated in 1993, so it is dated a bit, but on page 415, there is a chart: "The Ten Favorite Myths." These are the false ideas adopted by some, all across the spectrum that shrink God in their eyes.

These range from attacks against God the Father, to God the Son, to the Spirit's Revelation. These target the very nature of Christianity, seeking to limit it's value in your life. But I HAVE A THEORY – if we can eradicate these top 10 false ideas, we can MAXIMIZE GOD once and for all!

### **1. Jesus was only a Good Moral Teacher**

- a. Few will deny that Jesus existed. The historical record eliminates this view. But there are many, even church going folks, who would categorize Him as a powerful historical, spiritual leader – a person of God. Who taught us many amazing things. But then deny that He is God, Deity from heaven.
- b. What is the advantage of this position – why not just accept Him as God or cast Him aside. Well, some do cast Him aside. But still others like the idea of good moral teacher, because if you like what He says, you do it and feel close to God. If you do not like what He says (MDR maybe) you do not do it – after all, He's not God.
- c. So, you simply cannot be a Christian, and will not be able to say or live the absoluteness of **Galatians 2:20**, unless you can reject entirely this myth.
- d. Three Things To Consider
  - i. Jesus claims to be God's Son – **John 10:30-39**
    1. United with the Father (**30**)
    2. Words from God (**32**)
    3. Understood as claiming to be God (**33**)
    4. "I am the Son of God" (**36**)
    5. "the Father is in Me, and I in the Father" (**38**)
    6. "Before Abraham was born, I am" (**John 8:58**)
  - ii. Jesus' disciples exclaim His Deity
    1. **John 1:1-4** – John's Gospel is built upon Christ's Glory.
      - a. **I John 1:1-4; 4:1-2** – He REALLY presses this fact! A big deal!
    2. **I Cor. 1:1-9** – For Paul All hinged on this. **II Cor. 2:2,8** – Lord of Glory!
  - iii. Christianity is built on Christ as God
    1. **Matthew 1:1,18-21; 28:18-20** - From the Beginning of the Gospel
    2. **Revelation 1:1-2, 5; 22:16, 20-21** – Jesus as Lord, Messiah, Lord!

So, at this point, having shed the light of Gospel on this first myth, we ought to be segregating people into one of THREE CATEGORIES

- 1) Jesus is God. He is worthy to have first place in everything. I exist because of Him, I am saved by Him, and I am preparing to meet Him again. And now we worship and grow and study and pray and TRY every day to be more focused on Him and greater FOR Him!
- 2) Jesus is not God. Jesus is nothing. He is a liar or a lunatic. He is not the Lord. Stop praying, stop going to worship, stop straddling the fence. Faith is a waste of time.
- 3) Jesus makes these claims. And I want to believe, but is there really any evidence of this?!?!

For those who fall in that third category, and perhaps to help everyone, let's look at a second myth, also related to Jesus, and see what God has shown us to answer it:

## 2. Jesus was not raised from the Dead

- a. I mean, that's the big event, isn't it. If Christ is raised from the dead, then I can accept the Truth of our first point and live for Him. If not, then... well, let's let Paul tell us:
  - b. **I Corinthians 15:16-20** – No middle ground, our faith stands or falls on the Tomb.
  - c. This myth goes on to say that there is not evidence. But is there?
    - i. **Eye Witness Testimony – Matthew 28:16-20**
    - ii. **Conspiracy Exposed – Matthew 28:11-15**
    - iii. **Thousand Converted – Acts 2:33-36, 41-42**
    - iv. **Hundreds Saw Him – I Corinthians 15:1-4**
  - d. **I Corinthians 15:20-26** – We have reason to believe! We have no reason to doubt Him. And along with the Truth of His resurrection comes more amazing truths:
    - i. ***“All will be made alive”***
    - ii. ***“He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father”***
    - iii. ***“The last enemy that will be abolished is death”***
  - e. From this we draw incredible faith and strength and focus – **I Cor. 15:57-58**

At this point, for any who are intellectually honest and entered this study with an open heart, there are really only (or should only be) two classes of people:

1. Those who truly and fully believe in Him. He is God. He is first place in everything. He made me. He is worthy of my life. He is my King.
2. Those who reject Him. He was just a man. He was not Risen.

There is no middle ground. We are ALL IN with HIM or ALL OUT. Now, if you ask those who will not follow Him why they reject what we've seen today, they will likely say, *“Kris, did you notice that all of the evidence you gave came out of the Bible? What if the Bible isn't reliable or true? If we can't trust this or if it isn't from God, your entire argument falls apart!”* This is true. And if some doubt about the Bible's information is holding you back... come back tonight! Two of our three myths tonight speak directly to this issue. And the evidence God has given us is amazing!

**II Peter 3:8-10** – God is coming back whether you believe it or not. Nothing will change the reality of what is before us. Some will shrink God and do what they want, but it won't change the facts about God and His coming. Let us be a CONVINCED people. A FAITHFUL people. An OBEDIENT people.