

THE JESUS CHALLENGE

*Would you consider yourself to be a Christian who follows the teachings of Jesus? Yes / No

*Are you a member of a Christian denomination? Yes / No

If so, what is the official name of your church? _____

*How long has it been since you completely read all 4 Gospels [*Matt., Mark, Luke & John*]:

Within the last year / Within the last 5 yrs. / I have never completely read all four gospels

1. Jesus demonstrated on several occasions that even the most wicked of sinners would be forgiven:

A. Eventually, through a repentance process which would lead them to righteous living.

or B. Immediately, by simply coming to Jesus and exercising a humble faith in Him.

2. In regard to pre-existence, Jesus stated that:

A. He was the only person who had pre-existed in the presence of the Father and had come down to the earth.

or B. We all had pre-existed with our Father in heaven and should view the entire human race as sons and daughters of God.

3. (**True or False**) Jesus taught His followers the sanctity and importance of an eternal marriage relationship which would extend far beyond the future resurrection.

4. In regard to priesthood, Jesus Christ:

A. Spoke often with His disciples about the importance of the priesthood and ordained them with priesthood authority to act in His name.

or B. Never spoke about the importance of any priesthood nor is it recorded that He ordained his Apostles with priesthood authority.

5. (**True or False**) Jesus said that after his departure the Church would fall into a state of total apostasy because wicked men would arise who would take away many of the precious truths that He had taught.

6. (**True or False**) - Jesus taught that after death people will be given a second chance to receive the gospel – those who repent can move from a place of tortured remorse to a place of peace & comfort.

1. Jesus demonstrated on several occasions that even the most wicked of sinners would be forgiven:

CORRECT ANSWER- B. Immediately, by simply coming to Jesus and exercising a humble faith in Him.

In Luke 7:36-50, Jesus forgave a prostitute because she simply worshiped Him— Jesus said, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven” (also consider Matthew 9:2-8); also read about the Father’s forgiveness in the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24; 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”. It is significant to note that all forgiven sins are totally forgotten never to be remembered again, see: Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 38:17; Micah 7:19; and Hebrews 8:12 & 10:17.

2. In regard to pre-existence, Jesus stated that:

CORRECT ANSWER A. He was the only person who had pre-existed in the presence of the Father and had come down to the earth.

Jesus said, “Father, ...You loved Me before the foundation of the world... The world has not known You”—John 17:24-25; “The Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form”—John 5:37-38; “Not that any man has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father”—John 6:46; “He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him”—John 7:28-29; “It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him”—John 8:54-59; And, Jesus said, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world”—John 8:23-24.

3. **(True or False)** Jesus taught His followers the sanctity and importance of an eternal marriage relationship, which would extend far beyond the future resurrection. **CORRECT ANSWER – False**

Only once did Jesus discuss the topic of marriage in the afterlife. This narrative is found in Matthew 22:23-30. Read this passage for yourself and STOP AT VERSE 28 – If eternal marriage was a principle of Jesus Christ’s gospel, what important question would Jesus have asked these men? JESUS WOULD HAVE ASKED, “Was the woman married to any of her husbands in the temple for time and all eternity?” But, Jesus did not ask that question because no one was ever married in a Jewish temple. Instead, Jesus answered, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.” The recorded scriptures make this point clear, neither Jesus, nor any of His Apostles, nor any ancient prophet ever taught the doctrine of eternal marriage. Can eternal marriage be a part of Jesus Christ’s gospel if Jesus never taught it?

4. In regard to priesthood, Jesus Christ:

CORRECT ANSWER – B. Never spoke about the importance of any priesthood nor is it recorded that He ordained his Apostles with priesthood authority.

Jesus never once spoke about priesthood. The authority that Jesus offers his disciples is not said to be through any priesthood but rather through the power of the Holy Spirit, (see Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 36-39); According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus could not have held the Aaronic priesthood because He was from the wrong tribe of Israel, He was of Judah and not Levi. Also according to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus was the only person that could or would arise after the similitude of Melchizedek and hold his priesthood. (Read Hebrews chapters 5-7).

5. **(True or False)** Jesus said that after his departure the Church would fall into a state of total apostasy because wicked men would arise who would take away many of the precious truths that He had taught. **CORRECT ANSWER - False**

Jesus said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”—Matthew 16:18; “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”—Matthew 24:35; “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”—Matthew 28:20; “You shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”—Acts 1:8 . If the total apostasy of Christ’s Church happened, then Jesus Christ proclaimed false prophecies and is a liar.

6. **(True or False)** Jesus taught that after death people will be given a second chance to receive the gospel – those who repent can move from a place of tortured remorse to a place of peace & comfort. **CORRECT ANSWER– False**

In Luke 16:19-26, Jesus eliminates any hope for second chances after death when he says, “Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here [paradise] to you cannot, nor can those from there [hell] pass to us” (vs. 26). Jesus taught more about eternal destruction in hell than any other prophet; “broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Matthew 7:13); “...to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where ‘Their worm, does not die and the fire is not quenched’” (Mark 9:43-48); “These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matt. 25:46); And in John’s Revelation he says, “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever... This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:10-15).

Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” John 12:47-48