The Claim of Jesus

**Introduction:** Jesus is both the most famous person in the history of the world, and the most controversial. Simply put, either He is who He claims to be, the Son of God most high; or He is a complete fraud. This may be explained by insanity or unscrupulous motives, but He can’t be described as a good man unless what He says concerning Himself is actually true.

**Jesus’ self-proclaimed deity… Consider:**

* If not so, then He was an egomaniac (cf. John 14:6). He claimed that the welfare of the entire world depended upon Him. That fealty to Him was the only means of salvation for mankind.
* Unlike Moses, Paul, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, etc., He claimed to be God! (Mark 14:61-64)
* He claimed that His teachings were ultimate and final. (cf. Matthew 5:22,28,32,34,39,44; 7:28-29; 12:33-45)
* Consider facts beyond dispute: Jesus lived on earth. Jesus, while on earth, was worshipped by some as God. Jesus founded a church that exists 2,000 years later. Jesus changed the course of world history.

**Jesus’ Legal Testimony About Himself (Mark 14:53-65; cf. Matthew 26:62-68)**

* His trial before the High Priest Caiaphas, after his arrest on the Passover in the Garden.
* Note: KJV *“thou sayest”* (Matt. 26:64) not evasive. Jewish idiom **“It is as you said”** (NKJV)
* Did not find testimony sufficient to put him to death (55). Contradictory witnesses (56-59). It was His own testimony (blasphemous if not true) that led to the High Priest’s reaction (60-64).
* **Note:** Jesus’ trial was based not upon what He did, but who He was! (cf. Matthew 22:41-45)
* **“Son of Man”** (cf. Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 110:1-2)
* **Note:** From Matthew 22:63-64 *“Son of Man”* and *“Son of God”* same individual, indicative of the Christ. From Mark 14:61-62, “Son of Man” and *“Son of the Blessed”* – same thing.

**Other Claims of Jesus**

* Equality with God (John 10:25-38). Led them to try to stone Him (vs. 39; cf. John 8:49-59).
* Eternally Existent (John 8:49-59)
* Due the honor of the Divine (John 5:16-23). Note verse 18, this in the context of Him being equal with God.
* Accepted Worship (cf. Matthew 4:10) (Matthew 8:2; John 9:35-39; Matthew 14:33) Contrast this with others (Peter – Acts 10:25-26; Angel - Revelation 19:10)

**What Others Have Said About Jesus**

* **Paul** (Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9; Titus 2:13)
* **John the Baptist** (cf. Luke 3:22; John 1:29-34)
* **Peter** (Matthew 16:15-17; Acts 2:36; 2 Peter 1:1)
* **Thomas** (John 20:28)
* **The writer of Hebrews (1:3; 1:8)**
* **John (John 1:1,14; 1 John 5:20)**

**Conclusion:** Many other examples could be cited. It is obvious that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. The writers of the New Testament accepted that claim, and wrote what they did to bolster it. They believed that eternal life hangs on the balance of faith in Jesus as the Son of God (cf. John 20:30-31)