



WHO WAS JESUS...REALLY?

PART 2



Life's Pivotal Question

"Many scholars claim that the early Church literally stole Jesus from His original followers, hijacking His human message, shrouding it in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power." Da Vinci Code, page 233

"Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matt 16:17

WHO WAS JESUS...REALLY???

Investigating Dan Brown's Claim

1. Who were "original followers" that Brown names?
2. Where is this "original message"? What is its content?
3. Who/When was this "original message" distorted?

THE KEY: _____ IS EVERYTHING!

FACT: Earliest Christian documents written by _____

" There is no fact of early Christianity more historically verified and generally accepted by foes and friends alike" Quote from James Garlow, Peter Jones

1. _____ BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS DIVINE.

"...for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship..." Galatians 2:8-9

"Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed." 1 Corinthians 15:11

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist" Colossians 1:15-17

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" Colossians 2:9

2. _____ BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS DIVINE.

"And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said." Matt 26:63

"Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you

think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands" Matthew 26:65-67

"Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." Matthew 14:33

3. EARLY _____ BELIEVED JESUS WAS DIVINE.

- Ignatius: "God Himself was manifested in human form" [105 AD]
- Clement: "It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as of God." [150 AD]
- Justin Martyr: "The Father of the universe has a Son. And He...is even God" [160 AD]
- Origen: "No one should be offended that the Savior is also God" [225 AD]
- Cyprian: "Jesus Christ, our Lord and God" [250 AD]

NOW WHO DO YOU BELIEVE?

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31