

Resurrection: What Makes Jesus Unique and Distinct

Select passages from the Gospel of John

MPS Jesus is Lord, the Christ of God who rose from the grave to resurrect to eternal life all who believe in Him.

OBJ Every person should believe in Jesus because of Six Ways the Resurrection makes Him Worthy as Unique and Distinct.

INTRO Welcome to Resurrection Day, the day we celebrate the unlocking of the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for new life. One author writes, "After more than seven hundred hours of studying this subject and thoroughly investigating its foundation, I came to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the *most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men*, OR it is the most fantastic fact in history."¹ *Resurrection is the one event that harmonizes all other facts of Jesus' history (William Milligan), and therefore culminates the good news for all who believe in Him.*

TRANS But first, let's clarify what Resurrection means.

Resurrection is not what many equate it to be, but something completely new from the old. Theologian Wayne Grudem describes the distinctiveness of resurrection when he says, "Christ's resurrection was not simply a coming back from the dead, as had been experienced by others before, such as Lazarus (John 11:1-44). Jesus was the "firstfruits" of a new kind of life, a life in which his body was made perfect, no longer subject to weakness, aging, or death, but able to live eternally."² Jesus was not merely rejuvenated, reinvigorated, nor resuscitated. *Resurrection brings new life, and body, that is like but not identical to the old, not subject to sin's fallenness, but suited for eternity with God. Resurrection "embodies" a person for eternity with God, without which there is no life with God.*

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OBJ Seven Ways the Resurrection makes Jesus Worthy as Unique and Distinct

1. Humanity: Jesus was a man. John 1:10-14

READ John 1:10-14

*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:10-14***

I begin with Jesus' humanity because this is where the world began in knowing Jesus. Before anyone knew Jesus was God, he was just a kid from Bethlehem. Born of a virgin, from the beginning his birth was unique and distinct. Many recognized His uniqueness from God at conception ^{Luke1:31-33} and during gestation ^{Luke1:41-42}, but no one denied his humanity. Jesus was a person who grew physically, developed, and matured like any other. ^{Luke2:40} Many through the ages after Jesus have tried to deny his humanity, but to no avail. And this humanity makes Jesus unique and distinct. Knowing Jesus was God, his becoming human, or taking on flesh, is referred to as the Incarnation.

TRANS And Jesus' human nature leads us to his second uniqueness and distinction.

2. Divine: Jesus is God.

As controversial as Jesus' humanity became, his divine nature was doubted and rejected from the beginning, and to some extent, understandably so. Jesus is the only human who claimed to be God, and actually was what he claimed, proven both by testimony and signs and wonders. John begins his gospel introducing Jesus' divine nature.

¹ Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), p203.

² Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, Second Edition, 753.



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:1-5***

Later in his gospel, John records Jesus testifying to his divine nature.

³⁶For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.

³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

*⁴⁶For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" **John 5:36-37, 39, 46-47***

The Bible teaches that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine; he was both God and man. Jesus is the only human who proved he was God, and eyewitnesses testified to this. ^{Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39} Jesus is the only deity who became human, to come to his worshipers and provide for them what was demanded from them. [The Resurrection proves both Jesus' human and divine nature to mark him as unique and distinct.](#)

TRANS Jesus is not only distinct in his nature, but also in His message.

3. Faith in Love over Works for Salvation

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

*¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **John 1:16-17***

Jesus' message fulfilled what Moses' law introduced. We are helpless in sin because the Law reveals our powerlessness. And we are hopeless in sin because of the Law's demand without any offer or answer for us. But Jesus fulfills the Law to become the perfect, spotless lamb, and pays sin's debt to satisfy its demands. Then, He invites us to believe in Him to be forgiven from our guilt of sin and cleansed from our sin stain, to receive His righteousness. Jesus did for us what we could not accomplish and gives to us what we could not achieve, his righteousness. [Jesus is unique and distinct because He is the only deity that invites you to believe what He has done for you instead of demanding what you must do to get to Him.](#)

TRANS This great salvation that He gives to us provides hope from His promise.

4. Hope from Promise

Jesus promises this great salvation to all who believe in Him, to receive His forgiveness and cleansing, and righteousness. And because our hope is in Him, and not in ourselves, the nature of our hope is eternal, as He is eternal, and will never diminish. ^{1Peter 1:3} The Resurrection proves that Jesus' message, the promise hope we have in Him, is eternal. [Jesus is the only deity that guarantees – by His very presence – that what He promises, you will receive from Him because you are given it immediately, completely, and eternally.](#)

TRANS [But how can one know that all this is true?](#) This is exactly what the last three unique and distinct aspects of Jesus provide for us.

5. Revelation

Jesus reveals the truth about Himself for us. In John 4, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a water well. As they talk the conversation turns to spiritual truths. She confesses that she believes in God' and awaits His Messiah. Jesus reveals to her that He is the Messiah. ^{John 4:26} Later in John's gospel ^{7:28-29}, many were questioning Jesus and a great stir about who He was and where He came from was the topic of conversation. Jesus reveals that He was sent by the Father to reveal Him. And the collective response was to argue that he could not do more than Jesus had done to prove what He claimed. ^{7:31}

We often think of the Bible only as a book about God. But this is not completely accurate. The Bible as God's living Word reveals God, not only what He has done but WHO He is. This is most plain in historical narrative where we get more than just data, but a divine revealing of a person.

If you want to tell others about a person, you don't just give facts, you tell a story that introduces the person.



ILLUS If someone says to you, "Tell me about your pastor.", you might describe me; he's bald, stocky, not funny, etc. But if you want people to know me, you might tell them, "He forgets people's names that work for him when he is in front of the whole congregation." (I only use myself because to use another person would put me in very deep trouble.)

Jesus is the only deity that reveals himself so he can be known, and makes you more like Him, instead of demanding that you must become more like him if you ever want to have a hope of learning who he truly is or being with him.

TRANS And if revelation is not sufficient for you, then this next unique and distinct characteristic should convince you.

6. Resurrection

Jesus was raised from the dead; this is the exclamation point of the gospel. God **promised** salvation in His word, "according to the scriptures". God **provided** salvation in His Son, Jesus; "Christ died for our sins...was buried...was raised". God **proved** His salvation by appearing to countless personal witnesses. Because of the resurrection, Jesus' death and burial make sense. If Jesus had not been raised, God's promise would've been nothing more than a political stump speech, Jesus' death nothing more than the same narrative as any other, and unable to prove anything. "But", as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:20, "in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." The resurrection changes everything! The resurrection tells us that God's holy demand for sin's penalty was satisfied. He was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice for sin, His wrath against sin absolved because it was consumed in Jesus. And for all who are found in Jesus are good with God.

The unique and distinct characteristics of Jesus because of the resurrection reveals one final truth for us; Jesus is worthy.

Jesus is Lord, the Christ of God who rose from the grave to resurrect to eternal life all who believe in Him.

CLOSE Today's Invitation is not to believe to an extent, to trust partially, or even mostly, or to hang around as long as is convenient or comfortable. Today's invitation is not even to ask if you want that which Jesus can provide for your life. All of these may look like Christianity or be common invites put forth today. Today, because of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you are invited to turn from your sin, deny self, and submit your whole being, all your heart, mind, and life to Jesus, and become his follower, a Christian.

To reject Jesus Christ, or in any way, means or manner regard Him as anything less than Lord of All is to deny the most significant historical and supernatural event in all of human history and existence, his resurrection. Jesus is Lord! And one day he is coming again to judge the living and the dead. He will resurrect to eternal glory all who have put their faith in Him, turning from sin and self to be made new. He will subject to eternal torment all who have rejected Him. **How, then, can you refuse him? Why then, would you deny Him? Trust in Jesus today and receive Him to be made new!**

