

Lord, Liar or Lunatic? Hebrews 1:1-3

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, V2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things by whom also he made the worlds; V3: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.”

The dilemma is as old as the earliest defenders of the Christian faith: “Either Jesus is a good man or a bad man.” That is the classic argument. Spelled out it looks like this:

1. Jesus was either God (if he did not lie about who he was) or a bad man (if he did.)
2. But Jesus was not a bad man.
3. Therefore Jesus was (is) God.

Few would challenge the second point. But if the first point is added, the only conclusion is the third point, because Jesus could not have done and said all that he did and said, if he were only a good man. Therefore, non-Christians must challenge the first point. How can we know that Jesus is Lord? Common sense tells us He is Lord. Someone who claims to be God and is not, is not a good man but a bad man.

Merely a “good man” is one thing that Jesus could not possibly be. By claiming to be God he eliminated that possibility. For a liar is not a good man. One who lies about his identity, is not a good man.

It is attractive and comfortable to say that Jesus was neither a bad man or God, but a good man. That he did and said good things. To say that he was a bad man offends Christians, and to say he was God offends non-Christians. Therefore non-Christians want to say neither.

But that position offends logic and common sense. Either Jesus believed his own claim to be God or he did not. If he did, he was a lunatic, if he did not he was a liar. Unless of course he was (is) God.

Why could he not be either a liar or a lunatic? Because of his character. There are two things everyone admits about Jesus’ character: He was wise and a he was good. A lunatic is the opposite of wise and a liar is the opposite of good.

There are lunatics in asylums who sincerely believe they are God. The “divinity complex” is a recognized form of psychopathology . Its character traits are well known: egotism, narcissism, inflexibility, dullness, predictability, inability, to understand and love others as they really are and creatively relate to others. In other words, this is the polar opposite of the personality of Jesus! More than any other person in history, Jesus had the three essential virtues every human being needs and wants: wisdom, love and creativity.

If on the other hand Jesus was a liar, then he had to have been the most clever, cunning blasphemously wicked, satanic deceiver the world has ever known, successfully seducing billions into giving their eternal souls into his hands, If orthodox Christianity is a lie, it is by far the biggest and baddest lie ever told, and Jesus is the biggest and baddest liar. But in every way Jesus was morally impeccable. He had all the virtues both soft and hard, tender and tough and he died for his lie. What would ever motivate a selfish, evil liar to do that?