

## What makes Jesus unique?

- ✓ He came for the purpose of dying.
- ✓ He rose from the dead.
- ✓ He made the central issue of faith himself (not the Kingdom).

liar?  
lunatic?  
Lucifer?  
**legend?** **Lord?**

## Mark 3

“20 And He came home, and the multitude gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. 21 And when His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “**He has lost His senses.**” 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “**He is possessed by Beelzebul,**” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.””

“23 And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! 27 But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.”

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

**He offered a rational for  
the hope of the Gospel  
with sensitivity and reverence.**

## 1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being **ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

- **Prepare** to give a **rational** for faith in Jesus.
- Be **respectful** of the question and the answer.

## Acts 17

“2 And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving **evidence** that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” 4 And some of them were **persuaded** and joined Paul and Silas, along with a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.”

“16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols. 17 So he was **reasoning** in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.”

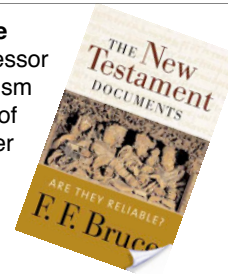
**We can be confident that our Gospels are trustworthy witnesses to the originals.**

- **The number and age of the manuscripts compared to other ancient documents.**
- **The consistency of the manuscripts.**
- **The integrity of the authors and copiers.**

**But how can we know that they are telling us the truth about what they report?**

- **Consider the alternatives.**
- **Consider the credibility of the sources.**
- **Consider the impact on life and history.**

**F.F. Bruce**  
Rylands Professor  
of N.T. criticism  
University of  
Manchester



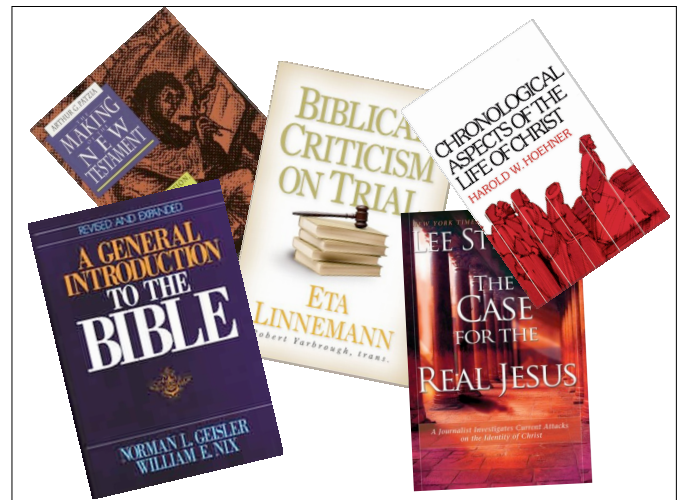
**Sir Frederic Kenyon**  
British paleographer and biblical and  
classical scholar  
at the British Museum. (1863-1952)

“If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt.”

“No other ancient book has anything like such early and plentiful testimony to its text, and no unbiased scholar would deny that the text that has come down to us is substantially sound.”

“Most of these [textual] differences are completely immaterial and insignificant....In fact, most of the changes found in our early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes, pure and simple - slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another.”

*Bart Ehrman in Misquoting Jesus  
pp. 10, 55-56, 62, 94, 177*



“28 Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 **but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin**” - 30 because they were saying, “**He has an unclean spirit.**”

**Matthew 12**

“<sup>31</sup> Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> **And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.**”

“28 Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 **but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin**” - 30 because they were saying, “**He has an unclean spirit.**”

**What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?  
It is not -**

- **a moral failure of some kind.**
- **a misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit's gifts or ministries.**
- **just unbelief.**
- **rejecting any of Jesus's words and miracles.**

### Mark 3

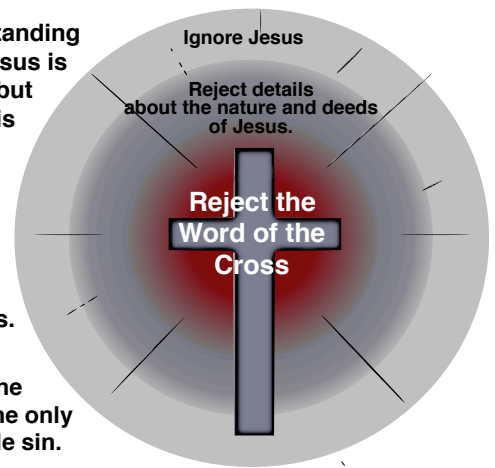
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What is the **blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**?

- It has to do with **identifying Jesus with Satan.**
- It is to **marginalize Jesus in the face of powerful evidence** of his person and work.

Misunderstanding the man Jesus is forgivable but rejecting his ministry at the Cross in judging sin takes away the basis of all forgiveness.

Rejecting the gospel is the only unforgivable sin.



### Mark 3

“31 And His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him, and called Him. 32 And a multitude was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are **outside** looking for You.” 33 And answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” 34 And looking about on **those who were sitting around Him**, He said, Behold, My mother and My brothers! 35 “**For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.**”

Who is **Jesus’ family**?

- Not “**those who are outside**” (biological or ethnic).
- **Those who “are sitting around him”** - who have an “ear to hear” and follow Jesus by faith.

**Example  
of Jesus being IN but not OF  
the world.**

**He brings a message of hope  
that is centered in himself.**

***The Gospels put the emphasis on Jesus.***

It’s about JESUS  
his nature and  
Cross.

It’s about LAW -  
conformity to  
tradition.



Jesus’ family  
is limited to  
ethnic Jews.



Jesus’ family  
consists of his  
followers.

It’s about ME -  
fixing me  
and my world.



Jesus’ family  
is inclusive of  
everyone.

**God’s Kingdom is popular  
but the King is not.**

**The Kingdom involves moral  
reform, personal fulfillment,  
and social renewal.**

**But the Gospel of the  
Kingdom is first about  
the King!**