

Opinions About Jesus

"Jesus was a brilliant Jewish stand-up comedian, a phenomenal improviser. His parables are great one-liners." —Camille Paglia

"Millions of people claim they belong to the Christian religion, but few of them know anything about the alleged life of the founder of their religion, a mythical fellow named Jesus... Jesus is a myth just like all the other saviors and gods of old."
—American Atheists Web site

"Lycurgus, Numa, Moses, Jesus Christ, Mohammed, all these great rogues, all these great thought-tyrants, knew how to associate the divinities they fabricated with their own boundless ambition." —the character Dolmancé in the Marquis de Sade's "Dialogue the Fifth"

"Many Wiccans acknowledge Jesus as a prophet or Enlightened Being. These individuals honor Jesus as they would any of the other great spiritual prophets, including, but not limited to: Mohammed, Moses, Krishna, and Buddha." —Coven of the Rowen Star Web site

"The essence of Christianity...is summed up in one mind-boggling sentence: *Jesus Christ is God* (see John 10:30). Not just part of God, or just sent by God, or just related to God. *He was* (and therefore, of course, *is*) *God*." —Charles W. Colson, *Born Again*

"We know God only through Jesus Christ. Without this mediator all communication with God is broken off. Through Jesus we know God. All those who have claimed to know God and prove his existence without Jesus Christ have only had futile proofs to offer." —Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

"Both Socrates and Jesus were outstanding teachers; both of them urged and practiced great simplicity of life; both were regarded as traitors to the religion of their community; neither of them wrote anything; both of them were executed; and both have become the subject of traditions that are difficult or impossible to harmonize." —Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries*

Discuss these questions:

- Which of these opinions about Jesus is most common?
- Which opinion surprised you or was the most interesting to you? Why?
- What are other common perceptions of Jesus?