

Fact #1 - There are reliable eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life, claims and teachings recorded in the ancient document called the New Testament.

1 John 1:1 - *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—*

Fact #2 – This Jesus claimed to be the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, the Son of God and that He would die, be buried and rise again on the third day.

a. The _____ - **Matthew 16:15–17** - *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* ¹⁷ *And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

b. The _____ - **John 5:17–18** - *But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”* ¹⁸ *This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

c. The _____ - **Luke 9:21–22** - *And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,* ²² *saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”*

Fact #3– The claims of Jesus, if not true, cannot be those of a stable, honest, good person, who is worthy of following.

John 7:12–13 & 20 - *And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”* ¹³ *Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him....* ²⁰ *The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”*

Fact # 4 – According to first-hand accounts, this Jesus died a cruel and excruciating death on a cross through the prompting of the Jewish leaders and at the hand of the Romans.

John 19:30, 34-35 - *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit....* ³⁴ *But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.* ³⁵ *He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.*

Fact #5 - According to first-hand accounts, after his death he was buried according to Jewish Customs, laid in a borrowed tomb with a large stone rolled in front of it and a Roman Seal and Guard deployed to secure it.

Matthew 27:59–61 - *And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud* ⁶⁰ *and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.* ⁶¹ *Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

Fact #6 – Three days later, the Romans seal was broken, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty, the grave clothes were left with no logical natural explanation.

Luke 24:1–3 - *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.* ² *And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,* ³ *but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

Fact #7. The followers of Jesus Christ claim to have seen and interacted with the risen Jesus Christ over a period of 40 days in different settings and were so convinced of this reality that they proclaimed this message throughout the world and sealed their witness by their own blood.

Acts 1:3 - *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

Where do the facts lead us:

1. Jesus Christ is _____ having risen from the dead.
2. Jesus Christ is _____ He said He is.
3. Jesus Christ did _____ He said He would do.
4. What Jesus Christ says is _____.
5. What Jesus Christ _____ will also come to pass as well.
6. We should believe _____ Jesus Christ.
7. Every individual has a _____ to make regarding Jesus Christ.

John 14:19 - *Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

Acts 25:19 - *Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.*

1 Peter 1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...*

So...What's it to us?

1. Facts are stubborn things for those of _____
2. Facts are stubborn things for those of _____
3. Facts are stubborn things for those of _____
4. Facts are stubborn things for those of _____
5. Facts are stubborn things for those of _____

