

# What Kind Of Christ Would He Have Been?

**Introduction.** Mankind has always done their best to try and dissect the most profound person ever on the earth. Many different ideas concerning Jesus have been put forth. From the debates concerning His deity in the first few centuries to the recent Jesus Seminar, man has always tried to attach their particular notions to Jesus.

Christians have probably noticed over the last several years that a prevalent portrait of Jesus has emerged. It is a portrait of Jesus that portrays Him as an individual who would not interfere into the private lives of men, nor would He present truth in a fixed, absolute manner.

Jesus Christ came to shed the light of God on all mankind (Acts 26:22-23). However, the shedding of light sometimes involved acting in a way that the world rejects. We are going to ponder what kind of Christ would He have been if He would have had to followed the current and appealing notions of men concerning Him.

- I. ***If He had been weak, wavering, unsure, uncertain and unsold concerning the truth, and the doing of the Father's will?***
  - A. What if Jesus had been a stand-for-nothing and a stand-against-nothing leader? Preachers today by the hundreds sure fit this category. They refuse to look into the scriptures and take a definitive stand because this country does not want to accept absolute truth.
  - B. Several times in the gospels it is stated that Jesus taught and was certain of the truth.
    1. This fact was stated by the disciples (Matthew 22:15-22; John 1:14, 17; 6:4-14).
    2. This fact was stated by the Lord Himself (Luke 4:22-29; John 8:31-32; 14:6; 18:37).
    3. Jesus was also never reluctant to do the will of the Father (John 4:34; 8:29; 15:10). He was willing to obey to the point of death (Hebrews 5:8-9; Philippians 2:8).
  - C. At the end of the great sermon on the mount, men were astonished at His doctrine because He taught them as one having authority (Matthew 7:28-29). Having authority implies that there must be truth.
  - D. Do we really want preachers and teachers who never recognize any logical and rational system of authority? Do we really want preachers and teachers whose most profound statement is always, "I really don't what the Bible is saying in this particular passage?"

II. ***If He had ran after the attention of the religion leaders of the day, and catered to their whims and fancies because He wanted their goodwill?***

- A. After Jesus had publicly rebuked the Pharisees concerning their refusal to uphold the laws of God, the disciples came to Jesus and told Him that the Pharisees were offended (Matthew 15:12).
- B. What kind of Christ would He have been if He would have ran after the Pharisees, apologizing for His plainness and confessing never to be so plain again? On the contrary, His next statement was even plainer (Matthew 15:13).
- C. Do you really want a preacher who is so afraid of losing his preaching job that he refuses to preach sermons to a congregation that they might desperately need? Do you really want a Bible class teacher who is too afraid of parents to candidly, but tactfully, proclaim the truth on morality and works of the flesh?

III. ***If He had possessed the view that He dare not be critical of any religious establishment, but approve all, fellowship all and endorse all?***

- A. What kind of Christ would He have been if he had "gone along to get along" and had thrown the arm of fellowship around everything in religion?
  - 1. An example of this kind of attitude is found in the following quote from an email exchange I had with Jack Peters, the pastor for the Mt. Union Bible Church.
  - 2. Mr. Peters wrote, "There are areas where we cannot have compromise, such as the inerrancy of God's Word and the doctrine of salvation. However there are other areas where I have my understanding of the scriptures and someone else may understand them differently. So it is with eschatology.... The key issue for unity is the doctrine of salvation.... I cannot agree to disagree with someone in that area, because without faith in Christ that person is lost! Eschatology is another story. This does not mean that I would allow someone to preach in my church who had different eschatological views, but I can still treat the person as a "brother".
- B. Jesus warned the disciples about the leaven of both the Pharisees and the Sadducees and they knew that He was speaking about the doctrines and teachings of these groups (Matthew 16:6, 12).
- C. Jesus also warned about the ravenous wolves who come in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15-23). He was clearly opposed to teachers who refused to teach and uphold the truth in favor of the commandments of men (cf. Acts 20:29-30).

D. Do you really want preachers and teachers who are willing to compromise and accept all types of teaching and false teachers? Do you really want preachers and teachers who refuse to warn about false doctrines thereby jeopardizing your soul's future?

**IV. *If He had filled His lessons with sugar-coated expressions, oozing an expressed love that never not around to pointing out any error or wrongdoing?***

A. What kind of Christ would He have been to have been that weak? Do we want to hear the Son of God speak with plainness, always remembering that He did the will of the Father?

B. In Matthew 23, Jesus publicly condemned the scribes and Pharisees eight times for the error and sin they were promoting. Notice the different condemnations:

1. Vs. 13 -- They were hypocritical.

2. Vs. 14 -- They were covetous.

3. Vs. 15 -- They converted others to a false religion.

4. Vss. 16-22 -- They encouraged lying.

5. Vss. 23-24 -- They distorted the scriptures.

6. Vss. 25-26 -- They were concerned only for externals, rather than the inner man.

7. Vss. 27-28 -- They appeared virtuous but were really contaminating the people.

8. Vss. 29-36 -- They were self-righteous.

C. Do we really want preachers and teachers who refuse to tell us what we need to hear in straight, unequivocal terms? Do we really want preachers and teachers who only speak in general terms and never specifically condemn different sins?

**Conclusion.** What kind of Christ would He have been if He had been characterized by the points of weakness just noted? That's right! He would not have been the Christ at all. Let us always accept all of Jesus that is presented in the scriptures and not mold Him to fit our preconceived notions.