

May 29, 2016

## WHY SHOULD WE FOLLOW JESUS?

We often see Jesus through the filter of who we are, as one fitting into our mold and being one of us.

Today we still have a tendency to try to make Jesus into our image, to put our own particular spin on who he is, so that he fits into our own personal niche.

It's not for us to spin Jesus into our likeness. It's for you and me to conform ourselves into his likeness. In order to become like Him, we need to know him as he is revealed to us in Scripture. We need to become people of the Word.

If you will spend time with him in the gospels, you will get to know him very well — even as you know your best friend.

1. Jesus is God. Ref: John 1:1

Jesus and God the Father, as well as the Holy Spirit, are One. One God! Each uniquely identifiable, yet One in nature!

This is what we're referring to when we say that we believe in the trinity — God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the Eternal God. He has always existed and will always exist. Ref: John 8:58

Jesus claimed to be God. As we come to know him, we need to know him *on his terms*, based on who he claims to be, and who the Bible claims that he is.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the creator of the universe. Everything we see was made by Jesus, this carpenter from Galilee, and everything we see was made not only *by* him, but *for* him. Ref: Colossians 1:15-16; Rev 4:11  
KJV

2. Jesus is a man. Ref: Luke 2:52; Heb.5:8; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor.15:21

Paul refers to Jesus as a man in this text. In other places, as we saw earlier, Paul refers to Jesus as the eternal God. That's because he was fully both. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:21)

Seventy-nine times in the gospels Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man. Ref: Luke 19:1; Heb. 4:15

Son of Man means that he is, like we are, descendants of Adam. Ref: John 3:17

3. He came to give everyone the opportunity to be fully alive. Ref: John 10:10 ESV

In Jesus we see what it means to be fully surrendered to God.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again." (John 3:7) This means that the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside you.

Following Jesus is about more than accepting a new philosophy or ideology. It's about having a genuine one-on-one personal encounter with the living God — the God who has made himself known to us through his Son Jesus Christ.

The primary purpose of every believer. (Philippians 3:10) Look it up?