

1.12.2019

WHO IS JESUS

Countercultural Notable?

It is generally accepted by the world that Jesus actually existed. He lived for a short 33 years in Israel 2,000 years ago. That set of facts is not usually debatable. Other than being a practicing Jewish man, Jesus was considered by the local authorities and powers to be a man who had ideas and ways of behaving that are consciously and deliberately very different from the cultural values of the larger society that he was part of.

The famous historian H. G. Wells converted from being a devout Christian to devout Darwinist and atheist after being exposed to Darwinism in school. While he spent the rest of his life proselytizing for Darwin and eugenics, he had something profound to say about Jesus towards the end of his life:

“I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.”

Well's observation about Jesus has general acceptance by many. It entirely fits into the mainstream culture. Unfortunately it stops short of pronouncement of the real identity of Jesus. This is where the debate begins to have a debilitating impact upon Modern Culture. Who was He really? Was He a mere man? Was He a notable prophet? Was He an outstanding teacher? Was He a healer? Or was He much more than that? Was He divine? Was He “the only begotten Son of God?”

Unfortunately the influence of modern culture on faith, promulgated the media, is significant and pervasive. It stops at the Historical Figure when thinking about Jesus.

In the past 30 years alone, Americans no longer recognize the Church as the most trusted sacred institution. The numbers are quite troubling. In 1990, 68% of the population spoke of the Church as the pinnacle of sacred institutions. Now only 38% consider it such.

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H. G. Wells

Today's American parents do not have a Biblical world view - 95% have a Modern Cultural view. Even pastors across the nation have been influenced with only a dismal 51% espousing a Biblical world view.

The proposed question, “Who is Jesus?” strongly suggests that He is still living and that He exists now in our own lifetimes, that His life still influences multiplied millions of people.

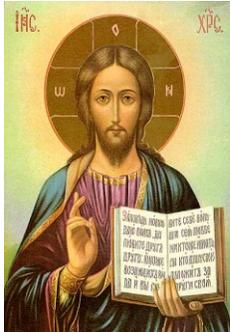
WHO IS

JESUS?

Is that possible? Or is this proposal merely the hope of unintelligent, under-educated religionists? Does the question, "Who is Jesus?" have any relevance in today's society?



We are all called to be a Blessing in other's lives. Let us explore how this can happen. Let's listen carefully as we consider the Wisdom of Holy Scripture and Catechism. May God give to each one of us the necessary means to complete His Gift of our Unique and Holy Mission.



Ephesians 6:11-12 Battle against Evil

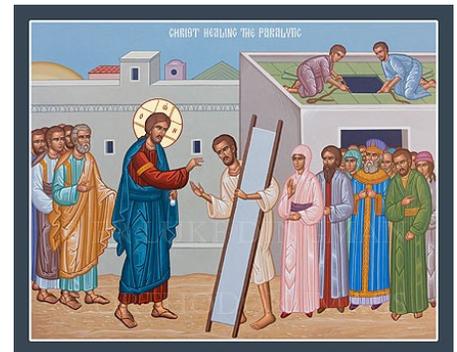
Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with rulers of this present darkness, with evil spirits in the heavens.

Romans 12:1-2 Sacrifice of Body and Mind

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Luke 5:18-26 The Healing of the Paralytic

And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set him in His presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus.



When He saw their faith, He said - 'As for you, your sins are forgiven.' Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, 'Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?'

Jesus knew their thoughts and said in reply, 'What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins,' He said to the man who was paralyzed, I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said 'We have seen incredible things today.'

The Word of the Lord

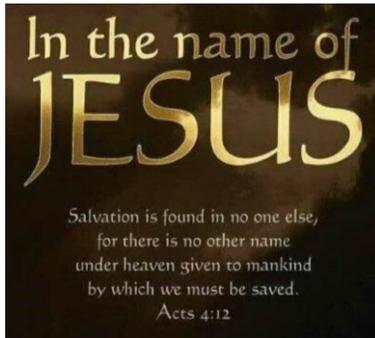
Catechism

469 - Who Christ is

The Church thus confesses that Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother: The Liturgy proclaims: "O only-begotten Son and Word of God, immortal being, you who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, you who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, you who by your death have crushed death, you who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!"

Conquering the Culture The Fight for Our Children's Souls

David Eich



Parental Desiderata: Parents are God's first line of defense. Your responsibility is awesome; your reward eternal. From tired babies to teens who never tire, you seldom rest. Your character is built to withstand disappointment, embarrassment, and sadness.

Each will surely surface. Learn to confront rather than compromise. But when it's your fault say so. Only then will you experience a child's ability to forgive. Affection must overcome cynicism. Material gifts must give way to time, for the latter creates memories.

Avoid humanistic terms of endearment: entitlements, victimology, diversity and self-esteem, that only weave a tapestry of despair. Abstain from truth debates. Good and evil were established long ago. Admonish your children that sex at any age with anyone of any sex is wrong; free speech does not include vulgarity; violence is not a rite of passage; but discipline is a parent's God given right. Stem the tide for the right to "choose" alcohol, drugs, abortion, or pornography. Such appetites have the power to destroy a generation.

Speak of values, morals, The Ten Commandments. Let those tenets magnify your freedom of expression. Give your children the privilege of work lest the future have no future. Censor evil, not God. A child raised without a spiritual foundation will surely crumble.

Remember, freedom of speech is a gift. Use it. Educate your soul. Verbalize your morality, condemning all immorality. Give your sons and daughters timeless heroes, not fleeting athletes, entertainers, or politicians whose message is self-serving. Trust the teacher, policeman, coach, clergy, or neighbor, who lives a moral life. Never ignore the loving gifts and needs of the elderly. They have much to share.

Reject man-made parenting treaties as such will never stand the test of time. Challenge the children's best in the classroom, on the playground, and in the house of God. Only then will they understand their calling.

Above all, recognize that the only demands you need honor are to provide both love and limits. Even so, declining morals, dark statistics, and attacks on the sanctity of life will always be. Fear not, God is with you.

For as you love His children, so too, will He love you. Amen.

**You are God's representative on Earth.
When you Bless and encourage the people in your life,
you are revealing God's love for them.**



Questions for Discussion:

1. The ground is shifting in our culture. Given what you have heard today, what resolutions would you make for the New Year? Give 1 specific thing.

2. As a man, have you made a personal conviction to accept Christ as Lord, God and Savior? Would you be convicted as a Christian if so charged?

3. Do you have a story about Christ to share? Do you share it with your family & friends? Do you keep it to yourself? Explain.



Men's Group Calendar

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.



1/26/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
2/9/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
2/23/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
3/9/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass

Bring Christ into the Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with Lord Jesus in Adoration. Silence fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to life. Family, friends, church...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. Doubting is OK if we bring it honestly to Him. He can and will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be in the emptiness, not running from it, not trying to fix or fill it. Letting Him love you and do the work He wants you to do.
- Ask: What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does He want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M WORRIED, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF. WHEN I'M AT PEACE, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE I REMEMBER THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." -Mother Teresa

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GO TO CONFESSION. ILLUMINATE CHRIST.

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to be a Man of Integrity by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant

Happy New Year!

Don't worry about the Future,

The Present is all thou hast.

The Future will soon be Present,

And the Present will soon be past.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group



"In all your deeds and words you should look upon this Jesus as your model. Do so whether you are walking or keeping silence, or speaking, whether you are alone or with others. He is perfect, and thus you will be not only blameless, but praiseworthy."

St. Bonaventure



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who you put into my life. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them peace and mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need and emptiness with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11

PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God our Creator,

From your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of Your Church and freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

O Heavenly Father, grant a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in Your church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and danger overcome – for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us – this great land will always be "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. And AMEN.