

Like Father Like Son

Theology is the study of God and His relations with the universe. Our theology, our understanding of God and His ways must pass thru our understanding of Jesus Christ. Our doctrine must be Christ-centered. Our preaching must be Christ-centered. Our understanding of Paul's letters, and Luke, Peter and John is with great consideration of what Christ said and taught. We know God, because He sent His Son into this world.

If I am to know God, I will know him through Jesus.

If I am to gain knowledge, it is deposited in Jesus.

If I am to find wisdom, I will find it in Jesus.

If God dwells in me, it is because Jesus dwells in me.

If I wish to study God, I must study Jesus.

If the Holy Spirit is active in my life, He will speak of Jesus.

God is Christ-like and in him is no un-Christ-likeness at all! Jesus defines our concept of God as well as our concept of the perfect expression of humanity.

Colossians 1:15-20

- "What does God look like?" He looks exactly like Jesus. He is the visible image of the invisible God.
- Jesus Christ is over all creation.
- He created everything we see and don't see.
- Everything was created thru Him and for Him.

Catechism is a summary of the principles of a religion in the form of questions and answers. In 1647 the Westminster Assembly prepared a catechism of 105 questions and answers.

Question #1. What is the chief end of man?

Answer. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

- We, along with the entire universe, were created to glorify and to enjoy God.
- The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them into little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose. The whole universe was made for Christ and everything is to be gathered together in Him.

—C. S. Lewis

- The church is the body of Christ.
 - Our relationship with the church should always be in consideration that she is Christ's body!
 - The church is fractured and diseased because of lack of consideration of this fact.
 - The idea of a "personal relationship" with Christ is right and wrong.
 - It is right that we as individuals now can have a close relationship with God.
 - We have direct access to God through the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - It is wrong to think that my actions or inaction do not affect others. I am completely accountable to Christ, but equally accountable to the rest of the body.
 - There is no real expression of Christianity except in connection with Christ's body.

→ We are individual members of Christ's body.

- "... from whom **the whole body, joined and knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share, causes growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love." - Ephesians 4:16
- **That he (Christ) may have the preeminence**
 - Preeminence—exalted in rank or honor, above all others.
 - Eminent Domain—power of state to take private property for public use
 - **When I choose to follow Christ, I surrender the private use of my life to the Preeminent One. The eminent domain of Kingdom of Heaven ranks above my private claims of the use my life.**
 - "Jesus is Lord" is a radical claim, one that is ultimately rooted in questions of allegiance, of ultimate authority. —Lee Camp
 - **Most problems in the church today can be explained by the fact that members have not yet decided to follow Christ.** —Dallas Willard
 - Detrick Bonhoeffer, in his very famous, *Cost of Discipleship*, "Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." He also wrote, "When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh."

On this Christ Sunday I ask, "Do you see what I see?" Here is what I see:

- Self-focused, self-interested, self-consumed, selfish people claiming to be followers of Christ. **Jesus said, "IF you want to be my disciple, you MUST deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me!"**
- People who are disgusted with this attitude in themselves. People who are sick and tired of living meaningless lives. People who are ready for radical change, ready to be transformed into the image of Christ, ready to become genuine disciples of Jesus.
- Church full of people devoting themselves to the teaching and the ways of Jesus. Multitudes will allow Jesus to alter their values and habits.
- I see a congregation of disciples ready to truly live THE JESUS WAY!