

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

At Ebenezer, all of our therapists are genuine followers of Jesus. To be a follower of someone, it is helpful to know who it is you are following. I think most everyone follows someone or something. Think about who or what you are following. Is it a professor, a cause, a philosopher, a pundit, a pastor, or heaven forbid, a politician?

I thought it might be helpful to define our perspective about this man named Jesus, what it means to be his follower, and the essence of this faith called Christianity. This paper might blow your mind, and maybe you will want to be a follower of Jesus too. No pressure. Read and see what you think.

You may have found your way to this paper having a very negative view of Christians and Christianity. You have heard of the Crusades and of atrocities committed historically by Christians. You might have been hurt personally by Christians being judgmental. You may think that Christians are adhering to archaic beliefs that are un-loving and rigid. I encourage you to read on to learn who Jesus really is. Try not to throw away Jesus because of the shortcomings of some of his followers. Keep in mind that it was his followers who cared for orphans, started hospitals, and have championed equal rights and respect for all.

Who is Jesus? The knowledge we have about the life of Jesus comes from the pages of the Bible. The Bible is the most well-preserved ancient collection of writings existing. Scholars debate who actually wrote each book contained in the Bible, but there is general agreement that the words we read in our translations from the oldest Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) manuscripts are accurate. For more detail about this, contact Dale Berry at Ebenezer.

There is also general agreement that Jesus did indeed exist as a Jewish man over 2000 years ago in Israel during the Roman occupation of Palestine. It is amazing that a single man who lived so long ago should have such profound influence on the world and history. When you learn who he really is, it will make sense why this is so.

If you were to ask random people on the streets who Jesus is, you will often hear that he was a great teacher. And yes, Jesus is known in the Bible as a great teacher who often used parables to illustrate his message. Many are familiar with the parable of the lost sheep and the prodigal son. Most of his teaching was to help us to understand who God is and God's love for mankind.

Jesus grew up as a carpenter and around age 30 began the work of preaching and teaching. This was a surprise to people in his day since he was not formally trained as a priest nor from the priestly line of Levy. As time went by, he took on disciples who

traveled with him and came to know Jesus intimately. It was from their accounts that the writers of the Gospels (first four books of the New Testament) described Jesus' life and teachings.

At one point, he asked his disciples who people say that he is. They answered saying that some say John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. Then he asked the disciples who they say that he is. His disciple named Peter answered saying, "You are the Christ."

It is common for people in our day to refer to Jesus as Jesus Christ. Many people probably think that was his last name. But Christ is a title, not a name. The word Christ is the equivalent of the Hebrew word Messiah. The Christ or Messiah is one sent to save, the anointed one of God.

So what is it that we need saving from? Jesus along with the Jews of his time lived under the rule and oppression of the Romans who had conquered that part of the Middle East under Pompey in 63 B.C. The Jewish people were looking for a Messiah sent by God to free them and to establish a new kingdom like but even greater than Israel under the Kingship of David. You can read 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel in the Old Testament to learn about the life and rule of King David.

Additionally, there were prophecies that God would send a Messiah who would be even greater than David and be a descendant of David. See Psalm 16:10 and Psalm 110:1 from the Old Testament and Luke 20:41 and Acts 2: 25-33 from the New Testament.

The Bible states that Jesus was born from a virgin, a young woman named Mary. She was visited by an angel who said to her,

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end. (Luke 1:30-33).

There are some unusual things stated in this passage. For one, there is a woman having a child but with no father. The Bible does not claim to be reasonable. Christians believe it is inspired and protected by God and is thus trustworthy even when supernatural events are recorded.

The appearance of an angel is another unusual event. Most people understand the concept of an angel being a messenger from God. Most of us have not experienced one up close. This angel names Jesus and gives Mary a preview of his greatness including being the son of the Most High, inheriting the throne of David, and having a kingdom that will never end.

That is quite a series of statements. First, it affirms that Jesus would establish a great kingdom, perhaps to overthrow Rome? Not everyone can say they are the Son of the Most High. And to date in history, all kingdoms end. What a mystery this must have been for Mary. Who is this Jesus the angel describes? How can his kingdom never end? Surely he would die eventually. Is he a very favored man, or is there something more to this?

We get another angelic proclamation when the shepherds near Bethlehem are visited on the night Jesus was born. The angels said,

Fear not, for behold. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David (Bethlehem) a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Notice how anyone who experiences an angel firsthand is fearful. It is standard practice for angels to reassure humans. In this proclamation, we hear the words savior, Christ, and Lord. So this Messiah has been sent to save us from something. We will get to what that is, but first there is more about who Jesus really is.

When Jesus began his formal ministry, he went to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth where he read from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Old Testament). What he read is recorded in Luke 4:18-19 (New Testament).

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

And then he said,

Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

By saying this, Jesus declared himself to be the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. The Jews hearing this understood what he meant and were amazed that this carpenter would declare this. Later, he would be physically attacked by the religious leaders of his day for the blasphemy of claiming to be the Messiah. He did not meet their idea of what the Messiah should be.

To get more clues about this special man, we will look at how the writer of the Book of Hebrews (New Testament) describes Jesus.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his son whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom he also created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and upholds the universe by the word of his power. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Now if that paragraph did not get your attention, then you are falling asleep while reading. If this writer is correct, then Jesus is much more than a mere man. Who of us can say we are the radiance of God's glory, we're instrumental in creating the world, or that we uphold the universe! We are seeing that the Bible is claiming that Jesus is indeed special and amazingly powerful.

The next passage will spell this out even more, though it will seem a bit cryptic due to the use of the word "word" or logos (λόγος) in Greek. The following are the words from the beginning of the gospel of John (4th book of the New Testament).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-5)

Who is the Word? Jesus is the Word. This is a bit hard to comprehend, but for now, start thinking that Jesus is not only a man who was born and walked on this planet for 33 years, but he was somehow with God in the very beginning and by his Word, the universe was spoken into existence. Christians believe that Jesus was not only a man, but is fully God himself. This is very hard for many to believe. How can he be both man and God? How is he different than God spoken of in the Old Testament? How can he be the Son of God and God simultaneously?

Christians make sense of all this with the concept of the trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Muslims accuse Christians of having three Gods. They think it is absurd for God to have a son. That would make at least two Gods, and they are strictly monotheistic. Christians claim to be monotheistic too. They believe there are three persons to this one God. The Son's role was to create the world and uphold it eventually taking on flesh for the salvation of the world. The spirit is quieter, but no less important living within believers guiding, healing, and perfecting. The father is the ultimate authority and power.

When Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai, God the father put Moses in a cleft in the rock and covered him because God knew Moses could not survive a direct face to face encounter with God the Father. (Exodus 33: 20-23). At other times, Moses, Jacob, and others had face to face encounters with God the Son. God has made a way for us humans

to connect with him. If you are having a hard time comprehending the idea of three persons, one God, you are not alone. It has been a challenge for just about every believer for the past 2000 years. Nevertheless, given what we know about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it works.

So, having toured a few of the scriptures pertaining to Jesus, can you begin to understand how he is much more than a great teacher? Can you see why one man could change the course of history? He was present in the beginning as part of this Trinity. He spoke the universe and our world into existence. Somehow, he sustains the universe by his power. He took on flesh, was born as a real human to be the Savior, the Messiah, the Christ. If all this is true, then why would anyone not want to follow him?

You may have trouble with the idea of creation vs evolution. Whether you believe in a young earth or an old earth with many epochs, someone or something had to put it all into motion and to supply the energy behind it all. Christians believe that force is God.

One of my favorite illustrations of Jesus' power that illustrates his control over the forces of the natural world was the experience of the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

One day he (Jesus) got into a boat with his disciples (on the Sea of Galilee), and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, and as they sailed, he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And when they went and woke him, saying, "Master, master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and raging waves, and they ceased, and there was calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

I don't know about you, but I have lived through some severe storms. What an experience it would be to witness Jesus calming the storm! It is interesting that these disciples' fear changed from fearing the storm to fearing this man, Jesus. This is just one of many miracles recorded in the Bible. Do you believe miracles are possible? In my thinking, the created world itself is not capable of operating outside of the limits of its natural order. But the creator of the world has additional options.

Miracles: Sometimes something may look like a miracle, but it may be that we have not yet discovered the root cause of the unexplained phenomenon. The ancient Greeks thought thunder was caused by the God Zeus. Now we know it is caused by the rapid expansion of air with the intense heat of lightning. Though there are many examples like this over the course of human history, I am pretty sure that seeing a man order a storm to calm and having the storm obey is an actual miracle. This is probably not going to be something we learn about and then have control over the weather with verbal commands.

But you may think this is just a story made up by Jesus' followers to convince people to follow them. This theory supposes that the disciples knew the Biblical accounts were not true, but that they wanted power, money, and fame like a fake TV evangelist using the ruse of false healings to get people to give. However, we know historically that all but one of Jesus' disciples were martyred for their faith in their savior Jesus enduring tortuous deaths. It is unlikely that they all would die for a lie.

It is worth giving consideration to the possibility of miracles for if this account and others like it are true, then there really is an ultra powerful divine force out there, and it would be foolish to pretend it does not exist.

So for now, let's assume that this storm calming really occurred, miracles are possible, and that Jesus is God incarnate. Incarnate is the fancy word for the idea of taking on flesh (carne). God essentially gave up the glory of heaven, was born in Bethlehem like the story says, grew up and eventually began his ministry of healing and salvation. He disappointed many in his time by not conquering the Romans, but apparently, this was not his mission. So what was his mission?

Jesus' Mission of Salvation: To understand his mission, it will help to explore the term "Lamb of God." As Jesus was beginning his ministry, he approached another man of God known as John the Baptist. When John saw him approaching, John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" Why did John call Jesus a lamb? And why is this a lamb of God?

In the vast history of the Hebrew people, God initiated a system of laws for the protection and good of the people and to honor himself as God. The most famous of these laws are the Ten Commandments. Given that man's nature was to rebel against God and his laws, God made a way for the guilt of man to be paid for by the sacrifice of animals. Other cultures had provisions for sacrifice as well. The idea was that only the shedding of blood could cover the guilt of sin.

Sin is not a word that is commonly used today. People usually do not like to think of themselves as sinners. What does it mean to be a sinner? It simply means rebelling against God and his commandments. You might not be knowledgeable of God's commandments, but we have a God-given innate sense of right and wrong. I have yet to meet a person who would not be angry if someone stole his or lunch (or car for that matter). The fact that you feel angry is a sign that you have a sense of being wronged.

Most people if being honest with themselves will admit that they have done wrong, bad things in life and have thus sinned. We have lied, hurt others' feelings with harsh words, been selfish, failed to do things we should have done, committed some kind of sexual wrong, or not kept a promise. How do we get over this? How do we cleanse our soul from these behavioral and thought stains?

Most people think in terms of trying to overcome their badness with their goodness. Maybe if you can do 10 good things for every bad thing, you can forget what you have done wrong. Sadly, this does not work out too well. Most of us are sinning machines, falling short far more frequently than we can pay for. The idea of working your way to heaven is a losing delusion. Many people give up this quest and simply deny God's existence and the idea of heaven. However, if any of what the Bible says about Jesus is true, then the atheist remains mired in sin, hopeless for life, and under judgement for wrongs done.

It turns out that God knows all about our sin. He also knows that we are not capable for paying for the deserved punishment. So he made provision in the form of blood sacrifice. This may seem barbaric to us currently. It seems cruel to kill an animal for this purpose. However, the Bible from the beginning to the end emphasizes the need for blood to be shed in order for sin to be paid for. This illustrates the weightiness of sin in God's eyes.

In the first book of the Bible with the story of the first people disobeying God, God sacrificed animals (shed their blood) and made clothes for naked and ashamed Adam and Eve. God had warned them not to eat of the fruit of the tree of good and evil for they would surely die. Their death was postponed by the sacrifice of the animals.

Later in the history of Israel when they were enslaved by the Egyptians, God raised up Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. The Pharaoh was not having it. This led to a series of plagues culminating with the affliction of all the firstborns in Egypt. Moses instructed each Jewish family to kill a lamb and to paint blood on the doorposts and lintel (crossbeam over the door). Anyone "covered" by the blood within the house would be spared. Anyone outside or in an uncovered house would lose their firstborn. Exodus Chapter 12 (Old Testament) tells the story. God passed over the houses in the land of Egypt. Those that had the blood of the sacrificed lambs were spared, the Egyptian houses without the blood were not. This was the experience known and remembered by Jewish families to this day as the Passover.

The theme is that sin is so serious that the shedding of blood is required to pay the penalty. Jesus is the Lamb of God whose shed blood and death is applied to those who put their faith in him. It is like we have the blood of the lamb on our doorposts and lintels so that God's judgement passes over us. The Christian practice of Communion (Lord's Supper) reminds believers of Jesus' shed blood and broken body when they eat the bread and drink the wine.

In Isaiah chapter 53 (Old Testament), the prophet describes the coming Messiah.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are

healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us all.

This passage helps us to understand his mission: to be the ultimate sacrifice paying the price for the sins of all who would put their faith in him. Not only are our sins paid for, but he grants us peace and healing.

This faith in Jesus results in a miraculous transfer of our guilt from us to him. It does not seem fair for him to take our punishment, but it does fulfill the requirement of payment. In a word, this is justice fulfilled. Just like God takes sin seriously, he also takes justice seriously.

For the one who puts their faith in Jesus, there is freedom from the guilt of their sins. In Psalm 103 (Old Testament), the writer says,

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ... as far as the East is from the West, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

In 1 John 1: 5-10 (New Testament 1st Letter of John):

This is the message we have heard from him (Jesus) and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin**. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is **faithful and just to forgive our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This prior passage illustrates the holiness of God. He will not tolerate darkness (sin) in his presence. He states that it is Jesus' blood that cleanse us (covers us like the doorposts and lintels). When we put our faith in Jesus and confess our sins and sinfulness, he is both faithful and just to cleanse us. Notice that justice is fulfilled by Jesus' death. Wrongdoings have to be punished in order for justice to be fulfilled.

You may ask, "Why can't we just be forgiven and have no punishment? We can just go on our merry way with no harm done." The problem is that there was harm done. Consider the simple example of having your neighbor mow down your fence in your front yard. You could forgive the neighbor, but you are still left with a beat up flattened fence. Someone has to pay the price to do the work or pay for someone to fix the fence. Jesus is like a third party who arrives on the scene saying that he will fix it. Your

neighbor does not deserve that grace, but is thankful for it, particularly if he was incapable of fixing it or paying for it.

In summary, Jesus' mission was to take the punishment that we deserve so that we might be reconciled with the Holy God who made us in the first place. That is why Jesus' coming to earth is called "good news." Imagine foolishly climbing a cliff and getting stuck half way up. You can neither go further up nor can you descend. You are so far up that if you lose your footing, you will fall to certain death. You are stuck with no hope. Then from above, you hear a rescuer calling down to you. "I see that you are in trouble. I have rope and equipment and will come down to save you from your predicament." This would be good news indeed.

More About Jesus: Thus far, we see that Jesus was a special man who was born in Bethlehem, lived as a Jewish carpenter, was God who stepped out of heaven to live among us humans, taught us who God is, healed many, proved himself with miracles, and ultimately paid the price of our sins dying like a sacrificed lamb on the cross so his blood would cover our soul's doorposts and lintels.

But there is more. Let's look at a few things Jesus said about himself, about his promise to return, and his role as King.

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8: 12)

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. ... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? (John 14: 6,9-10)

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6: 35)

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for the sheep. (John 10: 11)

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11: 25-26)

Jesus affirms being the light of life, the way to life, the bread of life, the one who lays down his life, the life, the resurrection, and the truth. Wow! Jesus is clearly about Life! Notice he does not say he has life; he says he is life. Notice the same about truth. He

does not say he knows truth, he says he is the truth. How many of us could say these things and not be psychotic?

Jesus affirms that if you want to know God, you can look at him. “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” The Trinity is one God. If you want life, light, and truth, look to Jesus.

God visited us in person. He healed us, he loved us, and he died for us. Thankfully, death could not hold him. He rose from the dead (“I am the resurrection.”), he still loves us, and he promised to return.

He promises us that those of us who believe in him will not perish, but will live beyond death. If you want eternal life, put your faith in Jesus.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

So now you have been introduced to who Jesus is. He is more than a great teacher, he is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is simultaneously fully Man and fully God. He can change water into wine, calm storms, and heal people. He spoke the world into existence and is the lamb who sacrificed himself to pay the price for our sins.

What Happened After Jesus Died on the cross? Jesus had warned his disciples that he would die, be dead for three days, and afterwards rise from the dead.

The Son of Man (Jesus) is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise. (Matthew 9: 31)

Jesus was taken, prepared for burial, and placed in a tomb on that Friday known now as Good Friday. A large stone was rolled over the opening and a Roman guard was set there to make sure no one tried to remove his body.

On Sunday, the third day, Mary Magdeline was the first to discover that the stone had been rolled away, the guards were gone, and that the tomb was empty. Only the linen cloths that had wrapped his body were present. Mary and the other women with her ran to where the disciples had gathered and informed them. Peter and John (disciples) ran to the tomb also discovering it empty.

Eventually they realized what Jesus had meant when he prophesied his death and resurrection. Jesus then appeared to his disciples and others frequently for the next 40

days teaching and preparing them for his ascension (return to heaven reunited with the father. Luke the physician and historian describes the scene in the book of Acts.

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And when they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes (probably angels), and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. (Acts 1: 6-11)

Notice at the end of this description that Jesus is returning. Jesus himself affirmed that he would return.

So, for the past 2000+ years, we (people in all centuries) have been wondering and looking for his return. Many currently think that his return is immanent. When he does return, it will be as King.

Lord and King: The word Lord is used throughout the Bible referring to God. Naturally, it is also applied to Jesus.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our **Lord**. (Romans 6: 23)

This verse contrasts death and life and refers to Jesus as Lord. There are approximately 300 references to Jesus being “Lord” in the New Testament. So, what is a Lord? Lords typically have authority, power, and leadership. Lords traditionally are in place to care for the needs of their subjects in exchange for obedience and service.

Modern Americans tend to think of Lords as selfishly abusing their power over others unjustly. All of us have seen movies or read stories of evil Lords like the infamous, fictional Prince John taxing the people of Nottingham to poverty. But good Lords were the ones who made sure there was food available to see the common people through the winter. Good Lords protected the people from outside threats.

Jesus illustrated the concept of being a servant while maintaining his power as Lord when he insisted on washing his disciples feet. Jesus said,

You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so with you. But whoever would be great amount you must be your servant,... (Matthew 20: 25-26.

As Lord, Jesus expects his followers to be servants with humility. He also expects obedience. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

Jesus made many statements of command recorded in the Bible, but the greatest commandments were to love God and to love one's neighbor.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept the Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15: 10-12)

Given all that we have talked about, we know that Jesus has the power and authority of a Lord. And based on his words and experience recorded about his life, we know that he protects us, cares for us, prays for us, and instills his love and joy in our hearts.

The following sentence is very important. Followers of a Jesus do not obey this Lord in order to win favor or to build a case for why they should be leaders. Instead, they obey Jesus' commandments because of their desire in response to the love, grace, and forgiveness they have received.

How does the term King apply to Jesus? A King is like a supreme Lord. Kings have Kingdoms. The Jews back in the time Jesus walked the earth wanted a strong King to fight and free them of Roman occupation. The Roman soldiers even put a sign on the cross where Jesus was crucified saying, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." (John 19: 19)

Remember the Angel of God who visited Mary, Jesus' mother? Here is the passage again.

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end. (Luke 1:30-33).

So this kingdom that would have no end was prophesied to be an extension of David's Kingdom. In this case, Jesus is the King who promises to return to establish his rule. In the prayer he taught his disciples (Lord's Prayer), he says, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." When we pray this, we are asking for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom.

When Kings enter a room, people kneel or bow indicating their acknowledgement of the King's authority and their fealty to him. The Bible says that every knee will bow when

Jesus returns. The following verses from Paul's letter to the Philippians pulls all that I have been talking about together.

Have this in mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above all names, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2: 5-11)

This amazing man, messiah, lord, king who is also Divine actually loves us. He especially loves us who are broken in some way.

There is much more that could be said about Jesus' love for the broken (and contempt for the arrogant), but you will just have to read the Gospels (Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) to learn more about this.

I hope that my introduction has made sense to you. Please feel free to contact me at Ebenezer Counseling Services with any questions. I hope you are filled with awe and wonder as I am when I ponder these things. I encourage you to seek for yourself the Way, the Life, and the Truth. Thank you for reading, and may God bless you in your journey of life!