

Did Jesus Christ Come Just As An Example For Us To Follow?

The simple answer is No!

Jesus Christ was God clothed in human flesh, we are not God.

Philippians 2:5-11 [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should 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.”*

Jesus Christ who was God [read John 1:1-14] became human to have His life dependent on the circulation of blood in His human body.

Then His blood could be shed to atone for our sins.

His death could then be a substitute for our own deserved death, [Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23] death is all our acts of goodness can earn, for all of us are sinners at heart.

Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of Satan, we cannot do this.

Hebrews 2:14-15 [NIV] *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”*

Satan holds this power of death over every human being by his acts of deception and broadcasted lies.

John 8:43-44 [NIV] *“Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

Satan’s lies blind people to the words of Jesus Christ and the promises He has made for all humanity, especially to be their Saviour from deserved eternal death.

1 John 5:19 [NIV] *“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”*

This present society is under the control of Satan.

Mentally and spiritually this is not God’s world at this time.

Hebrews 2:5 [NIV] *“It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.”*

This reign of Satan will come to an end, this is part of the Good News that Jesus Christ preached. [Read Revelation 20:1-3 – a description of what will happen at the time of Jesus Christ’s second coming as Lord of lords and King of kings.]

Even if it were possible for a person to fully copy Christ's sinless life, past sins would still declare such a person to be in need of a Saviour.

Psalms 51:3-5 [NIV] *"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."*

King David understood the fact that our being conceived in a Satan-influenced world we were even born sinners.

Romans 3:23 [NIV] *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

No human being has ever lived a sin-free life, with the exception of the Son of God who became a human being.

Jesus Christ came into the world to show us the true way to receive life after physical death.

John 14:6 [NIV] *"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me."*

If we trust Jesus Christ He and only He can lead us into the presence of the eternal God the Father.

John 5:24 [NIV] *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

If we hear and submit to the words of Jesus Christ we pass from death into life.

1 John 3:14-15 [NIV] *"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."*

We make this journey from death to life by following the words of Jesus Christ to love our neighbour. [Read **Matthew 19:19** and **Matthew 22:34-40**]

John 15:5-8 [NIV] *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

We can only have this love for our neighbour if we are attached to Jesus Christ as a branch is attached to the main stem of the vine and draws all it needs to produce fruit.

How can this union with Jesus Christ take place?

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*

It is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us.

- a) Jesus will come into our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit [the Spirit of Truth **John 16:13**].
- b) **Galatians 5:14, 16-17, 22-25** [NIV] One of the fruits of this union of our human spirit [**Job 32:8**] and the Holy Spirit is love.

The Greek word used is “*agapé*” which is a God-like love that is spontaneous, irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving this gift of love. A sacrificial love where the selfish desires are set aside in order to show this love to others.

Only by this kind of love can we love our neighbour even if they are acting like our enemy.

The branches of the vine thrive and produce fruit **not** because they copy the vine, but because they remain constantly attached to the vine.

A Christian’s hope is dependent on being attached to Jesus Christ by a constant indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 139:6-7 [NIV] *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”*

The Holy Spirit is available to us wherever we are not limited to Holy places or buildings.

There is one essential response to our receiving and having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.**” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

We must allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us out to others in acts of love.

It is significant that Jesus Christ mentioned this work of the Holy Spirit flowing through us on the last day of the Feast. For this great day, as kept by those living under the Old Covenant, depicted the final great harvest at the return of Jesus Christ as Lord of lords and King of kings. [Read **Revelation 20:11-15**]

A final warning to all who understand and seek to respond to the words of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:4-12 [NIV] *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case, things that accompany salvation. **God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.** We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”*