

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Is It Important We Know Him?

Most modern people in the west are embarrassed to talk about Jesus Christ. To mention His name at a party is a sure conversation stopper.

His name, Jesus and Christ, are most frequently used as swear words and are uttered in order to vent our anger or frustration.

This doesn't happen with the other leaders of the world's religions. Nobody is embarrassed to talk about them, and their name are not used as swear words.

If Jesus Christ had been a bad man, truculent and vindictive or a mass murderer, such reactions would be easy to understand; but Jesus Christ was nothing of the kind. He was the most dynamic, attractive and genuinely good human being who ever lived.

When viewed from the world's stance Jesus Christ did **not** live the life of a great human being.

Jesus Christ was born in an obscure village, then grew up in another village and worked as a carpenter until He was 30 years old.

Then for three years He was a wonderful preacher.

Jesus Christ never wrote a book nor held any worldly office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He did not go to college and had no credentials but Himself.

Jesus Christ did none of the things we usually associate with greatness.

Jesus Christ was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him.

His friends ran away and He was turned over to His enemies by one of His associates and was subjected to a mockery of a trial.

He was crucified as a criminal between two thieves and as He died in agony His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth.

When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Yet after 2,000 years He remains the central figure of the human race and the leader of human progress.

All of the world's kings, emperors, armies and rulers put together have not influenced the life of humanity so much as that one solitary life Jesus Christ lived.

The lasting impact of the life of Jesus Christ on western society is beyond belief.

Followers of Jesus Christ have initiated education for the masses, hospitals, hospices, freedom for slaves, drug rehabilitation, commitment to the poor and the unloved.

Has following any other great religious leader in this world inspired such dedication and self-sacrifice for those in need?

There must be something very special about this Jesus Christ, yet the vast majority of people just do not want to know Him.

If we were invited to get to know some distinguished statesman, famous actor or brilliant scientist, a great athlete or public hero we admire, would we pass over such an opportunity?

Why then do we shy away from Jesus Christ whose influence for good outshines all others?

Why are we embarrassed, even antagonistic, when someone wants to talk about Jesus Christ?

The highest example of what it means to be human lies before us in Jesus Christ.

His biography is superbly recounted in the pages of the world's best selling book, the Christian Bible.

Although Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Christian Bible and the most influential person in human history, He is aptly called "*the man nobody knows.*"

Why are we so reluctant to take a fresh look at Jesus Christ?

Is it because of the Christian Church, the society Jesus founded, has been so unlike Jesus Christ?

With its bloodthirsty Crusade, cruel Inquisition and the history of religious persecution.

Christ's Church is still so unlike Him that we may well have been scarred by its hypocrisy and bored by its blandness.

Maybe we recall the dreary local church to which we were dragged protesting when we were young.

Or do we reflect on the divisions in the church, the failures of its leadership and the small difference it makes on its members?

Is this why we don't want to know about Jesus Christ?

Or is it because the very brightness of His life shows up the dark corners of our own?

Or do we have a nasty suspicion that if we get too close to Him we might have to make some major changes in our lives.

Or does the name of Jesus Christ remind us of two things we want to suppress; our mortality and our accountability?

We all have to die one day, what if death is not the end and we have to face God and be accountable as to how we lived our lives?

Should we not think again about seeking to know Jesus Christ when He has made such life-changing for the good in the lives of 100s of millions of human beings.

The Christian churches may have obscured Jesus Christ as well as revealing His name.

But let me assure you by personal experience any changes Jesus Christ may advocate in your lives will only be changes for the better.

Jesus Christ holds the key to a fulfilling life and a freedom from the fear of death.

I challenge you now to take a fresh look at Jesus Christ with an open mind, you will not be wasting your time.

We will find that the teachings of Jesus are without doubt the greatest ever offered to humanity.

We will find that the claims of Jesus Christ are so startling that they will stop us in our tracks and challenge us to make up our minds about this most remarkable person.

Jesus Christ is a great teacher but also a great deal more than that.

Two main reasons we need to investigate the life and teaching of Jesus Christ are:-

1 For all the scientific and technological advances, human nature has changed very little. The products of this nature we see all around us in violence, hatred, cruelty, lust, indifference towards other human beings, starvation, greed, corruption and strife.

Humanity is crying out for love, forgiveness, the meaning of life, reconciliation, peace and hope.

These are the very issues which Jesus Christ spent addressing in his human life, and His followers know that He still addresses them.

2 Most people know very little about Jesus Christ today.

You will hear nothing about Him in the workplace.

Nothing much is taught about Him in most homes.

Even many Christian churches seem to speak of everything but Jesus Christ.

In any case, church going is now in this country a minority interest.

Where do we go then to find a clear, succinct account of His life and teaching, that can have great relevance for our lives and for society?

We human beings are a very complex combination of physical, mental and spiritual components.

As with every manufactured complex machine, the manufacturers send with their product a manual for us to use their product most effectively.

God, our designer and creator, has also given us human beings a manual to use, the Christian Bible.