

THE WONDERFUL CHRIST

ISAIAH 9:6

1. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE WANTED TO IDENTIFY WITH MAN.

(Phil 2:6) God could have chosen any means that He desired to bring Jesus into the world, but God allowed Jesus to enter this world exactly and precisely the same what that every person is born. In the divine planning of God, one thing is clear- He didn't have to send His Son to die on the cross for our sins. He could have allowed all mankind to die and live eternally in a place of fiery torment and remain totally just and totally God, but the truth is God WANTS mankind. God so desires to love mankind that He wanted to send Jesus Christ to live as a man in order that He could save us from our sins.

God allowed his only son to begin where we all begin- at the point of conception because He wanted to reveal His love and understanding to all mankind! Had God chosen some other way, Jesus could not identify with us completely and absolutely in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus knew the hurt of losing loved ones. He knew the reality of rejection, and the pain of loving with no love being returned. When Jesus walked to the tomb of Lazarus the Bible says he broke down in tears. Because his heart was broken as ours is when we lose someone we love.

The truth of our humanity is that, sometimes in our prayers, we can't really relate what we want to say, yet because of Jesus humanity, He can totally and completely understand us. Because He became flesh, He never wonders why we respond in certain way. Yes, He is completely God but He was completely man when He was on the earth. He can identify with our temptations, and our frailties.

2. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS OUR TEMPTATIONS IN LIFE.

(Heb .4:15) Everyone of us enjoy sharing our hearts with those individuals who listen from a heart of love without condemnation, and rebuke. Because Jesus faced life as a man He understands the reality of temptations, as well as the power of them. He understands the schemes that Satan uses on us, because Satan used them on Him. Just as God didn't blame Jesus for being tempted, neither does Jesus blame us for being tempted. The wonderfulness of Jesus is the fact that He knows that are countless temptations we face in life that we have no control over- but He remains faithful to deliver us from temptation as we lean on Him. How wonderful it is to know that Jesus is never blaming us or shame us for the many temptations that we face, but rather He is sympathetic toward us, anxious to deliver us from temptation, and in time He longs to deliver us from the sinful world. He is never caught off guard when we tell Him of those wicked darts that are launched at us. Jesus faced those bombarding thoughts that went through his mind that were from hell, with an attempt to move him off course and out of the will of God, and He knows that we will face those same voices today, aimed at our mind with an attempt to deceive and destroy us.

3. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS US EVEN WHEN WE

DON'T UNDERSTAND OURSELVES. *(Ps. 139:1-2)* Paul found himself doing many things in life that he didn't understand. *(Rom.7:21)* Regardless of how we react to life, the Lord is understanding. He does not condone sin but He is patient with us. Imagine for a moment if the

Lord treated us the way that our sins deserved, and reacted toward us in ways that we often react toward others! Yet, that is not the character of Christ. Many times we think we will respond to the pressures in life far better than what we actually do. Sometimes we think we will not break under the pressure, only to find out otherwise. The wonderfulness of Jesus is that He knows us inside and out. There is not a single thing that we could ever do or have done that could shock Jesus. The fact is, Jesus knows you better than you could even think about knowing yourself. Even if you think you have shocked him- that is only in your mind. The heart of Jesus has never been shocked because He knows us totally and completely. The truth is, no one has ever done a thing that has shocked the Lord Jesus.

4. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE IS AWARE THAT WE FAIL AND FALL.
(*Mt.26:34*) When we fail and fall, sometimes we have the tendency to think- “Life is over, I'm no use to God any more!” Only God knows the countless numbers of people who are living believing that their life is over because of some failure that has taken place in their lives. But if that was the case you would have to remove Abraham, David, Peter and others from the Bible, because they all fell.

These men fell but still were used greatly by God, because they were willing to be changed by God. Peter was a prime example of breaking under pressure when He denied knowing Jesus. Yet, the wonderful nature of Jesus is that He knows us inside and out. Though Peter crumbled under the pressure at the critical hour, the fact remains that God still had a marvelous plan for the life of Peter. In spite of his failures, and bending under the pressure, Jesus knew Peter, and He also knew what potential that Peter had when consumed with the person of the Holy Spirit. The character of Christ is such that our failures are not “news” to Him.

The wonderfulness of Christ is that He knew “all” that would happen even before our birth. In spite of our failures- He desires to use us greatly. After Peter fell, he repented and the Lord used him to preach at Pentecost where 3000 souls were saved. God even used Peter to pen 2 books in the New Testament. He is wonderful because he wants us in spite of our failures. The greatest usability in the life of Peter was not prior to his failures but after his failures. Irregardless of how you have fallen, and what you have fallen into- there is no life that has fallen so deep but what God will restore it when there is genuine repentance and confession of sins.

5. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE IS UNCRITICAL IN HIS NATURE.
(*Jn.8:11*) When this woman who was caught in the act of adultery, it is important to notice what Jesus did and did not say. Jesus didn't let this girl have it, verbally! Wasn't she living ungodly? Yes. But her greatest need was Christ not criticism, it was the forgiveness of God. It violates the nature of Christ to destructively criticize and demean us. Often times the criticism is either of Satan or self-motivated criticism. Christ can never be critical, because that violates His nature. How could He be God's Son, and abuse His Father's creation- mankind? The truth is, Jesus is never jumping on us. Yes, he disciplines us but never puts us down in the process. Each and everything He does for us is for our profit to better us, and to bring glory to God.

6. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE IS UNCONDEMNING. (Jn.3:17) The purpose in Jesus coming to earth was not to lay guilt on a single soul- but to free all mankind from slavery to sin, and from an eternal torment of hell that hangs over the head of all mankind who has never confessed Christ. It was never the nature of Christ to bring judgment and guilt on the world but rather to provide a route for us to have an intimate relationship with Him. Consider for a moment all the encounters that Jesus had with sinners- He was never condemning, judgmental, belittling, or degrading. But rather to all who sought Him out, His desire was to set them free to enjoy all of life with God's abundance. To the woman at the well who had been married a number of times- He was not condemning. To the woman caught in adultery- He was not condemning. He is wonderful, because He will not condemn anyone who comes to Him. The religious folk of Jesus time were condemning but never Christ. The same holds true today. There may be a vast number of religious folks that stand in judgment, and condemnation, but that is never the nature of Jesus.

One of the greatest statement Jesus made was this, "I came not to condemn but to save." The desire of Jesus is to forgive- give life eternal to all who will come to Him.

7. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE WANTS US REGARDLESS OF OUR PAST (LK.23:42-43) Imagine, if you can this scene at the cross. Jesus is on one cross, and the dying thief is on the other cross. The thief has nothing to show for his life except a life filled with a marred past, and a life filled with horrible crimes that brought him to this point. This scene at the cross is an awesome reminder of how much Christ wants us. Jesus is fulfilling the will of God in his death. Yet there hangs two thieves whose lives have been nothing but hell. Chances are they had run from the law until at last they were caught. Both men hanging beside Christ deserved every bit of their punishment. Their intentions were deliberate, their crimes were purposeful, and their sentence was just. Yet, one knew that Jesus' punishment was totally unfair. Even though this man had crossed the earthly deadline in regards to the law, he had not crossed the eternal deadline of God's grace and forgiveness. The forgiven thief wasn't forgiven based on performance, for there was no performing to do as he was hung to a cross. The fact that Jesus wanted this thief, is the living expression of the real grace of a Loving Lord. Jesus never wants to give us what we deserve. What makes Christ so wonderful- namely the truth that He longs to give, loves to give, and desires to give mankind what he could never deserve- yet Jesus will give it free of charge to all who believe in Him, and place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

8. HE IS WONDERFUL BECAUSE HE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH MAN. (Matthew 27:35) No matter what you think about yourself, how you view yourself, there is one who thinks more of you than you could dare imagine or believe, because He was willing to show it by being crucified. To understand how much Jesus loves us, we must understand that no one made Him die on the cross. Jesus said, "No man takes my life- I lay it down." No one forced God to make His Son come to earth- the Bible declares that "God so loved the world (the entire earth's population of people). God's love for man and man's hopeless state prompted God to give Jesus. Jesus love for mankind, and His desire to set man free caused Him to go to the cross. He didn't die on a cross because it was simple, but because it was the only way to that man could

be rescued. Jesus love is such that He is willing to do whatever He needed to do to rescue man from an eternity of life without God. In the economy of God, there is no one so bad, but what His grace is deeper still. There is no person so wicked but what the shed blood of Jesus Christ will reach down, cleanse and completely forgive and totally restore. The only issue that remains is this- who will respond to His love?