

Jesus: Intolerant, Confrontational, and Exclusionary?

Matthew 10:26-33

Introduction

Many proclaim, "God is love"

- I John 4:8, 16 – "God is love"
- But many want to say that "God is ONLY love"

They overlook/discard:

- Deuteronomy 4:24 – "God is a consuming fire"
- Romans 1:18-19 – "... the wrath of God is revealed ..."
- Romans 11:22 – "... the kindness and the severity of God"

Introduction

Jesus is commonly depicted as quiet, soft-spoken, harmless

- There is no fear of Him
- II Corinthians 5:10-11 – "knowing the fear of the Lord"

They believe He will accept any form of worship man will devise

- A "cleaned up" Jesus who preaches a "cleaned up" gospel
- Matthew 7:22-23 – "depart from me, you workers of lawlessness"

God Wants All People To Be Saved

- I Timothy 2:3-4 – "... desires all people to be saved ..."
- Titus 2:11 – "bringing salvation for all people"
- Matthew 25:46 – "... into eternal life"

God Is no respecter of persons

- Genesis 12:1-3 – "... all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
- Matthew 28:19-20 – "... make disciples of all nations"
- Acts 10:34-35 – "... God shows no partiality"

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

Jesus was intolerant of sin and those who promoted it

- Matthew 11:21-22 – "Woe to you"
- Matthew 15:3-9 – "their heart is far from me"
- Matthew 16:6,12 – "beware of the leaven"
- Matthew 22:29 – "... you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God"
- Matthew Chapter 23 – "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (5 times)
- Matthew 24:24 – "... to lead astray, if possible, even the elect"

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

Jesus' disciples followed His example of intolerance

- Acts 5:1-11 – "... you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord"
- Acts 15:1-2 – "... dissension and debate with them"
- Galatians 2:4-5 – "... we did not yield in submission even for a moment"
- Ephesians 5:6-11 – "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness"
- II Timothy 2:15-18 – "... upsetting the faith ..."

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

The language of the early preachers is similar to that of Jesus in Matthew 23

- Acts 7:51-52 – “You stiff-necked people”
- Acts 13:8-10 – “You son of the devil”
- Acts 20:29-30 – “to draw away the disciples”
- James 4:1-10 – “You adulterous people!”

Truth should never be given equal weight with error

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

Jesus was confrontational toward those who knew the truth but rejected it

- Mark 3:1-6 – “Is it lawful ...”
- Luke 13:10-17 – “... were put to shame”
- Luke 14:1-6 – “Is it lawful ...”

Jesus confronted people with the fact that He was deity

- John 5:16-18 – “... calling God his own Father”
- John 8:58-59 – “I am”
 - cf. Exodus 3:13-15 – “This is my name forever”

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

Preachers in the early church were just as confrontational

- Acts 4:19-20 – “... to listen to you rather than to God”
- Acts 5:29 – “We must obey God rather than men”
- Chapter 7 – “you always resist the Holy Spirit”
- Galatians 2:11-13 – “I opposed him to his face”

The Side of Jesus Often Ignored

Jesus excluded many by His teaching

- John 6:60-66 – “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

Jesus insisted on obedience

- John 14:21 – “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them”
- I John 2:3-6 – “whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked”

What God Wants You To Do

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – “that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ”

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

What God Wants You To Do

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... with the mouth one confesses and is saved”

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you ...”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”