

What makes Jesus unique?



His Message

04.23.08

Quotes on Christianity:

Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I needn't argue with that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now; I don't know which will go first — rock and roll or Christianity. Jesus was all right, but his disciples were thick and ordinary. It's them twisting it that ruins it for me.

John Lennon, *Evening Standard*, Mar. 4, 1966

Christianity came into existence to lighten the heart, but now it needs to burden the heart to start with so it can lighten it afterwards. Consequently, it will perish.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Human, All Too Human*

The very concept of sin comes from the bible. Christianity offers to solve a problem of its own making! Would you be thankful to a person who cut you with a knife in order to sell you a bandage?

Dan Barker, *Losing Faith in Faith*

We must ask ourselves if what we practice today represents the message Jesus gave.

What Christianity is NOT:

1. A Political Movement

Then Jesus answered, "I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

John 18:36

2. A Religious Institution

Jesus replied, "Believe me, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father here or in Jerusalem."

John 4:21

3. A Promise of an easy life

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life."

Luke 9:23-24

3. An Option among many choices

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

Christianity IS:

• A Promise of Redemption

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

John 3:17

• An Opportunity to Restore

He spoke to them again and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

John 20:21

Next Steps

- How is God rescuing you day by day?
- Are you resisting that change?
- If people only had your life and they were asked the question, "Has Jesus risen from the dead?", how would they respond?
- Are you the "Good News" to the people around you?

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- Are you _____ that change?
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- Are you the " _____ " to the people around you?