

So What About...? 2026

Part 2: So What About... Jesus?

Colossians 1:15-20

Summary: What if your version of Jesus is wrong, and discovering who He really is could change everything about your life?

Main Ideas:

You can be completely wrong about Jesus... and still think you're following Him.

A Jesus who always agrees with you... isn't the real Jesus.

Many of us are following a version of Jesus we've never actually examined.

If you want to know what God is like... Look at Jesus.

Jesus didn't just teach about God. He shows us what God is like in flesh and blood.

Jesus is too big to be just part of your life... He's the source of it and the reason for it.

Jesus didn't come to make your life slightly better. He came to bring you back to God.

A safe Jesus will never change your life.

We don't get to redefine Jesus. We only get to respond to Him

If Jesus really is who He says He is, then He's not just someone to admire... He's someone to follow.

Invitation:

Examine your version of Jesus

Replace your version with the real Jesus

Decide who you will follow.

Transcript:

IN: If you had to describe Jesus in one word... what would you say?

- How do you know you're right?

- You can be completely wrong about Jesus... and still think you're following Him.

Most of us didn't choose a lot of our beliefs... we inherited them.

- From our families, friends, social media.

But our beliefs shape our lives... our priorities, our decisions, even our thoughts.

- If your beliefs are off... your life will be too.

So as we start examining some of our beliefs, we need to start at the very core of why we are here...

- What do you believe about Jesus... and WHY?

- Because what you believe about Jesus will inform everything else we will talk about in this series.

- And really, it will shape the rest of your life

He's the most famous person in history, and yet most people, even church people, have a version of Jesus that fits their preferences more than reality.

- Some see Him as a nice guy- "love everyone, you do you, and I'll do me."

- Some see Him as a rule enforcer- step out of line, and He's disappointed.
- Some treat Him like a life coach- helpful advice to stay on track.
- Others turn Him into a mascot- He supports my politics, my values, my side.

But here's the problem: **A Jesus who always agrees with you... isn't the real Jesus.**

So the question isn't just what do you call Him?

- Savior? Teacher? Friend? God?

The real question is: Where did that version come from?

Because **many of us are following a version of Jesus we've never actually examined.**

And if your version of Jesus is off... your faith will be off... your life will be off.

So how do we actually know who Jesus is?

Because I don't know about you, I'm tired of opinions and a type of faith that says... just believe this because I say so.

- We don't need a version of Jesus that fits our preferences... we need the real Jesus.
- We need something that doesn't change based on culture...or trends...or what we want to be true.

And this is where the biblical writings come in...

- They give us the clearest picture of who Jesus actually is.
- Written by people who knew him or were close to those who did.

So let's look at a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a group of Jesus followers in the ancient city of Colossae

- In it is one of the earliest and clearest pictures of who Jesus actually is.

This wasn't written hundreds of years later, after legend had time to grow; this was written within the lifetime of people who were there.

- People who saw Jesus. Heard Jesus. Knew the real Jesus.

So this matters.

Because what we're about to read isn't someone's opinion about Jesus... it's a bold, early declaration of who He actually is.

And... If your version of Jesus doesn't match, then your version is wrong.

- The people who knew Him best never left this up for debate.

GOD: Colossians 1:15 NLT *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.*

Paul is saying, **If you want to know what God is like... Look at Jesus.**

- Not our assumptions, our culture, or our preferences

He makes the invisible God visible.

- How he treated people... that's how God treats people
- Who he ran to is who God runs to
- What he stood against is what God stands against.
- How he loved is how God loves.

Jesus didn't just teach about God. He shows us what God is like in flesh and blood.

But in case we start thinking Paul meant he was an EXAMPLE of what God is like... he goes even further...

Colossians 1:15b-17 NLT *He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*

Everything, including your own life, exists because of Jesus and for Jesus.

Jesus isn't just a cool guy who had great ideas... He is the source of everything.

Jesus is too big to be just part of your life... He's the source of it and the reason for it.

And it doesn't stop there.

- According to the earliest Christian teaching... Jesus isn't just the all-powerful God; he used his power for us.

Colossians 1:18-20 NLT *Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

He's not the figurehead, not the mascot.

- He's the center. The whole point, and he's in charge.

Not only that, he's the beginning of all who rise from the dead...

Jesus didn't just teach truth; he didn't just come to hang out with his creation... **he defeated death.**

And through Him, God was pleased to reconcile everything to Himself... He made peace through His blood on the cross.

That's the point...

- Jesus didn't come to give advice. He didn't come to inspire.
- He came to rescue.
- To bring what was broken... back to God.

We were distant. Disconnected. Lost.

- And Jesus came, found us, and made a way back.

Jesus didn't come to make your life slightly better. He came to bring you back to God.

So let's go back to our question... What do you believe about Jesus and why?

Because this doesn't leave room for us to make our own versions...

Jesus isn't...

- Just a good teacher
- Just a moral example
- Or just a spiritual add-on to make life a little easier.

He is...

- The visible image of God
- Creator and sustainer of everything
- The authority over everything
- The one who defeated death
- The only one who can bring us back to God

If your Jesus boils down to 'Be nice,' 'Don't judge,' or 'Help me cope,' you're not following the real one.

And this isn't just Paul's claim. Jesus said it about Himself:

John 14:6-7 NLT *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"*

Not "A way," and not one option among many.

- THE way, The truth, and THE life.

If this is true, we can't just make Jesus a preference.

And if it's not true... we shouldn't follow him at all.

If Jesus is just a teacher... you can take or leave His advice

If He's a legend... you can ignore Him

But if He's Lord... everything changes

We don't get to redefine Jesus.

And you know what... we might not always like the real Jesus more than our version.

Because the real Jesus calls us to:

- Love when we don't want to
- Forgive when they don't deserve it

- Serve when it's inconvenient
- Surrender when you'd rather fight

And here's the thing... A safe Jesus will never change your life.

YOU: So now we have a decision to make.

Jesus once asked his disciples... "Who do you say I am?"

It's not a question we can ignore.

Who do YOU say Jesus is?

- And does the Jesus you're following match the Jesus who actually is?

So this week, whether you call yourself a Jesus-Follower or you're exploring what this is all about, I'm inviting you to do three things...

First... Examine your version of Jesus

Be honest.

Where did your view of Jesus come from?

- Family?
- Culture?
- Experiences?
- Social media?

Does your version of Jesus actually match what we just read?

Second... Replace your version with the real Jesus

If it doesn't match... something has to change.

- Not Jesus. Your version.

Read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) from start to finish.

- Notice what disturbs, surprises, even offends you about Jesus. Don't skip it... wrestle with it.
- Keep asking, keep looking... He's not afraid of your questions.
- If he holds the universe together... he can handle it.
- And the more honestly you seek Him... the more clearly you see Him

Third... Decide who you will follow.

- Will you follow the real Jesus?

Or will you keep following a version shaped by:

- culture

- social media
- your preferences
- what you've always been told

Because at some point... you have to decide.

- Not what's convenient.
- Not what's comfortable.
- But what's true.

Because we don't get to redefine Jesus. We only get to respond to Him

WE: And that response doesn't just stay in your head.

- It changes the way you live.

Because following the real Jesus... isn't just about what you believe.

- It's about who you become.

So... Imagine what your life could look like...

- If you stopped following a version of Jesus you were comfortable with... and actually followed the real Jesus.

Imagine a life not driven by fear, but anchored in something unshakeable.

Imagine not constantly trying to prove yourself, because you already know where you stand with God.

Imagine becoming the kind of person who loves when it's hard, forgives when it doesn't make sense, serves when it's inconvenient.

- Not because it's easy... but because you're following the real Jesus.

All of this only happens when you stop shaping Jesus into your image and let Him shape you into His.

That kind of life doesn't come from admiring Jesus. It comes from following Him.

So this isn't just a question to think about... It's a decision.

- Who do you say He is?

If Jesus really is who He says He is, then He's not just someone to admire... He's someone to follow.