



HE TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

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Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:6 ESV

When we decide to follow Jesus, we are called to be like him. To do what he would do. To say the kinds of things he would say. To love as he loved.

But how could we possibly emulate a person as remarkable as Jesus? Many of us feel inferior to others, feeling unable to grow beyond who we are. But Jesus does not think of us that way. He accepts us as those who could become his spiritual brothers and sisters.

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In fact, the Bible says *“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”* (Hebrews 2:11).

When we spend time with Jesus, reading about him in our Bible, walking with him and talking with him—each in our own way—we’ll gradually get to know him. And as we get to know him, we’ll start taking on some of his characteristics.

Jesus was known for his kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12). He calls us to love in the way he did by caring for the sick and providing the lonely with friendship.

But Jesus had a lot more than those qualities alone. He was a complex individual with traits that seem contradictory. Jesus was a radical social activist, dying as he fought for justice and the common good.

Through his efforts to change the status quo, he became probably the most revolutionary person who ever lived. That’s a drastically different way of seeing Jesus than the gentle person described above.

During Jesus’ three year ministry, he challenged everything about the world’s way of thinking. He boldly faced injustice, turning the moral standards of the world’s values upside down with his Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). He promoted the importance of love, compassion, peace, and justice. The changes he brought to the world differed from anything that had gone before.

Yes, Jesus was a man with many diverse features. But I believe all of them were wrapped in one overriding factor. They were all part of his great and boundless love. With this love Jesus fought the injustice that was so prevalent. The world is a different place because of his ministry two thousand years ago. And today we are still inspired to follow his teachings and his example.

Jesus blessed us with the greatest love possible. As his followers we can take that love and pass it on to others. There is no better way to follow his example.

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