

## Jesus is the Way

David Flatt

Near the end of His life, Jesus said, "...I am the way..." (John 14:6). The earliest disciples were known by reputation as those of *the Way* (Acts 22:4). The word "way" represents a direction and or path. How does this idea apply to Jesus? In what senses is Jesus the way? Where does His way lead? These are important questions that we will explore.

### Jesus is the Way to...

**1). Self-awareness.** Who are we? Where are we going? What is our purpose? These are fundamental questions related to human existence. These and other related questions are unavoidable in human experience. We cannot help but wonder about these issues of human identity. Jesus is the way to self-awareness. But, how? To understand how Jesus is the way to self-awareness, we must understand who He was and why He came to earth.

Humans were made in the image of God. Humans are God's representatives on earth. As such, God has entrusted His world to humans. As God's imagers, we are to radiate His glory in the world by living in harmony with Him and one another. Sadly, we have failed miserably in this divinely appointed role. We have turned away from God. We have become idolaters. We have damaged God's image by sin and failed in our stewardship.

Jesus came to our rescue as the perfect human. He showed the world how to live as God's imager. The author of Hebrews wrote that Jesus, "...is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3). Therefore, Jesus shows us how to be human. He shows us how to live as God's earthly representatives and stewards. As humans, we will never understand ourselves until we look to Jesus and begin following in His steps.

**2). Forgiveness.** As sinners, we need something to combat our sin. But what? Some people try to deal with their sins by ignoring them. If they just put the past behind them, they will forget about their wrongdoing. Others try to compensate for their sin with good works. They hope self-improvement and acts of kindness will somehow atone for their sin. Yet, nothing seems to shake their guilt, shame, and regret.

Jesus is the way to forgiveness. By His cross, He atoned for our sins. He paid the price for the damage we caused. Faith in the cross of Jesus is the way to forgiveness. Jesus' sacrifice for our sins is the path forward in our lives.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:23-26).

**3). A fulfilling life.** Sin ruins our lives. Sin overpromises and underdelivers. Sin hollows our hearts. By restoring God's image within us and relieving the burdens of our past sins, Jesus shows us the way to having a fulfilling life. If we believed in what Jesus did for us at His cross and began living for Him, we would become different people. We would be free.

Jesus died so that we might live. He promised to give an abundant life to those who follow His voice (John 10:10). The good, full life is lived by giving. Too many people try to find fulfillment through power and selfishness. Paul wrote, "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

Imagine the life we could have if we became self-giving. We would be transformed as spouses and parents. We would gain the trust and admiration of our co-workers and employers. We would become an attractive symbol of hope for everyone around us. And, we would be at peace.

**4). Eternal life.** Sin brings decay, rot, and ruin. Sinners are like the walking dead. In life, they are symbols of eternal death. Jesus came to undo the consequences of sin. Jesus came to bring eternal life. In the last full measure of devotion to God and man, Jesus gave His life. However, God raised Jesus from death and exalted Him. By the resurrection and ascension, Jesus shows us the way to eternal life.

By doing the will of His Father, we can live and die in the hope of being raised from the dead and sharing in the glory of Jesus. Paul explained, "For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:14-17).

### **Conclusion**

Jesus is the way to receiving everything we need. Not only this, but He is the only way. There is no alternative path. So, be wise. Follow Jesus.