



February 1, 2018

Dear Friends:

For the past several months I've had the opportunity to lead the participants of my CrossTalk groups in a study through the book, **Knowing Christ**, by Mark Jones. In previous monthly messages, I've indicated just how powerful and "transformational" this study has been, both for the members of the groups, but especially for me, personally.

As we are nearing the end of this study, I wanted to share some thoughts and insights that have had a profound impact on my thinking about the most remarkable Person who ever lived: **Jesus**

As we know, the Bible doesn't provide us any description of Jesus's physical appearance. However, as Timothy Keller observes: "*All of the emphasis is, **not** on the quality of his skin, **but** on the **content of his character.***" And what character!

Consider these "qualities" of Jesus's character":

*Integrity without rigidity
Passion without prejudice
Power without insensitivity
Boldness without harshness
Tenderness without any weakness
High majesty with the greatest humility
Insistence on truth, but always bathed in love
Unbending convictions, but complete approachability
Commitment to justice with astonishing mercy and grace
Humility without any uncertainty ... accompanied by a towering confidence
A transcendent self-sufficiency and yet entire reliance on His heavenly Father*

And how were these qualities "manifested"?

Jesus astonished everyone by:

*Deliberately and tenderly touching lepers
Forgiving the enemies who were crucifying him
Showing that he was not bigoted toward the bigoted
Loving and forgiving the friends who were letting him down
Being willing to eat & fellowship with tax collectors, Pharisees, and prostitutes*

If it was possible to find even two or three of these character "qualities" in one person, we would certainly (and rightly) conclude that we had found a most remarkable human being. However, to find **ALL** of these characteristics in **ONE** person (the person of Jesus Christ), one can only respond with wonder and awe ... and rightly conclude that we owe him our highest allegiance. In fact ... we owe Him our worship, because He is God.

But it doesn't stop there. Next month I want to share a compilation of his divine "claims" about himself, and why such claims require a response.

Yours for reaching the marketplace.

Carl

NOTE: The "qualities" ... and qualities "manifested" listed above were taken from *Making Sense of God* by T. Keller