



O708
FEBRUARY 25, 2007

Jesus Is Cool, But Christians Creep Me Out

Which Jesus do you know; civilized Jesus or renegade Jesus?

(SERIES: **Loving God Without Becoming An A. S. K.** 01 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

"A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must **love one another**. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another**." (John 13:34-35 NIV)

"**IF I ACTED CRAZY, I DID IT FOR GOD**; if I acted overly serious, I did it for you. Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. ***His love has the first and last word in everything we do***. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own." (2 Cor. 5:13-15 The Msg)

Stuff Jesus never said

Jesus never said, "**Accept me**"

Jesus never said, "**Add me**"

Jesus never said, "**Admire me**"

Jesus never said, "**Aspire to be like me**"

Still cool after all these years

"I am **the way** and the truth and the life." (John 14:6 NIV)

". . . My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." (John 10:10 TLB)

"I **give them** eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. . . ." (John 10:28 NIV)

"He who has the Son **HAS LIFE**; he who does not have the Son of God **DOES NOT HAVE LIFE**." (1 John 5:12 NIV)

Jesus was and is **Authentic**.

"He said to me: 'It is done. I am the **Alpha** and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.'" (Rev 21:6 NIV)

"'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, '**before Abraham was born, I am!**'" (John 8:58 NIV)

Jesus was and is **Loving**.

Jesus was and is **Integrated**.

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed **NO SIN, AND NO DECEIT** was found in his mouth.'" (1 Pet 2:21-22 NIV)

Jesus was and is a **Visionary**.

"Jesus said, '**My kingdom is not** of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.'" (John 18:36 NIV)

Jesus was and is **Engaging**.

"He said to them, '**Go into all** the world and preach the good news to all creation.'" (Mark 16:15 NIV)

The R4G Creed

I will **live free**.

"**It is for freedom** that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1 NIV)

I will **have fun**.

". . . Do not grieve, for **the joy of the LORD** is your strength." (Neh 8:10 NIV)

I will **change the world**.

"**if my people**, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chr 7:14 NIV)

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes, the ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules and they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things, they push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."
(Apple commercial "Think Different")