

He Was . . . I Am 1

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He Was Love—I Am Accepted

Would God require more of us than He does of Himself?

Matthew 5:43-46 – ⁴³ You have heard that it was said, You shall **love your neighbor and hate your enemy**; ⁴⁴ But I tell you, **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, ⁴⁵ **To show that you are the children of your Father** Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on **the wicked and on the good**, and makes the rain fall upon **the upright and the wrongdoers alike**. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward can you have? Do not even the tax collectors and sinners do that?

Religion paints God as an unapproachable judge who takes great joy in our consequences.

Most people believe their pain and problems are punishment from God.

God is not your problem—He is your answer!

Jesus was kind to the sinful and broken and ruthless with the religious and self-righteous.

Matthew 11:19 - And I, the Son of Man, feast and drink, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and **a friend of the worst sort of sinners!**' But wisdom is shown to be right by what results from it.

Luke 15:1-2 – ¹ Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people — even eating with them!

Jesus, and Jesus alone makes you COMPLETE!

Colossians 2:10 - And you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe.

I John 4:18-19 – ¹⁸ There is absolutely no fear in love! Perfect love cast out fear, because fear involves torment. If a man fears [judgment from God], there is something imperfect in his understanding of love [a person living a fearful life – fear of death, fear of judgment from God – is not fully formed in love]. ¹⁹ **WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!**

I JOHN 3:1 - How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.