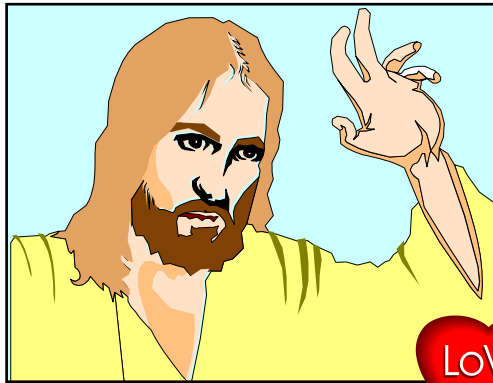


JESUS



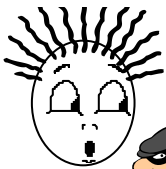
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Christianity is not a religion in the normal sense because a religion is by definition – man seeking after God. The really special historical fact about Jesus is that He is seeking after humans – that is why He died on a Cross. He said the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10)



So what was lost and what needed saving? This is the sad story of humans after God had created them.

We have been a rebellious bunch from the beginning, always wanting to do what we choose, rather than what God, who made us with our special and unique characteristics, has designed us for. This is our vocation.



But because He has also given us freewill we can actually choose our own destiny, and we do not always make good choices.



God loves us very much and wants us to be in His family, but He is a holy God. His presence would burn up our sins and destroy us. That is why Jesus was willing to die to save us. Humans had lost their close relationship with Holy God, but God wanted to save this relationship because He wants us in His family.



The Bible tells us that Jesus was with God from the beginning. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. For God was pleased to have all His fullness live in Jesus, and through Him to bring back the whole universe to Himself ... by making peace through His blood, shed on the Cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)



When we come to God He no longer looks at our sins but at His wonderful Son, Jesus. There is no religious act we can do to receive this salvation. Jesus offers Himself to us as a gift, because He loves His Father and He loves us.



Although Jesus was with God from the beginning He was born into a flesh body so that He could represent Mankind in His death. He was born to be the Saviour. He grew up as a boy and man but always, without fail, did what His Father wanted Him to do. The ministry He did was what the Father wanted because God has always been Healer, Provider, righteous and holy, and a Shepherd for His people.



In the Old Testament God revealed Himself to the Jewish people as Jehovah with these qualities in His name, and He promised the Christ, His chosen One. This is why His followers are called Christians.

When Jesus began teaching, He, representing His Father in all things, revealed Himself with these same names. He healed the sick, He blessed people, He did right and was holy in thought, word and deed, and He loved and protected the little ones as helpless lambs.



Jesus is alive in heaven. He prays to His Father about all the people whom God has chosen to be in His family, from the past until the end, those not yet born. He has a genuine interest because the Bible tells us – during the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered, and once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. (Hebrews 5:7-9) He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 2:11)



When we understand how much Jesus wants us to receive Him as Saviour, and that He is praying in Heaven that we will accept His offer, and that He has beautiful plans for our lives, then all we have to do is tell Him so in a little prayer.

Then His love pours into our hearts and His Holy Spirit begins to empower us to honour Him, love Him and serve Him.



The best friend to have is Jesus!