

2. JESUS AND US

1. God so loved the world
that He sent His only begotten Son to us
so that we could learn
how to live with each other
and with all of creation.
He was sent to teach us,
to heal us,
and show us love.
He was God's free gift to us –
not to be earned, but to be accepted.

2. The Oneness of all creation
is shown in the unity of God and Christ.
"I and my Father are one...
If you had known me,
you would also have known God."
And, "He who has seen me
has seen the Father."
This unity extends to us, too.
"You will know that I am in my Father,
and you in me, and I in you."
We are all interconnected.
We are together as a close family.

3. Jesus did not come to change
God's mind about humans –
God's love and mercy were everlasting
before time, and on into eternity.
But Jesus *did* come to us to change
our minds about God.
Jesus came to us to show us
what God is like.
That God desires healing and reconciliation;
not punishment and retribution.
God is love everlasting.
God desires a deep, personal relationship
with each and every person.

4. Jesus did not come to judge the world,
but to save us from ourselves.
He taught about equality and equity;
he taught about humility and mercy;
he taught about seeing deeply into the heart;
he taught about forgiveness and understanding.
Jesus said,
"I give you peace; not as the world gives,
but as God gives."
"Let not your hearts be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in me."
"Love one another as I have loved you."

A Common Rule for Monastics

5. So, how do we respond to this great love,
to this eternal gift of grace and mercy?
We respond by seeking our true self,
and nurturing it in community.
We respond by imitating Christ
in our own unique way,
the way in which we were made
by the hand of God.
We respond by beginning at the place
where we are now,
and moving forward
just one moment at a time.

6. We study the Gospels.
We try to see things as Jesus saw them –
united, interconnected, interdependent.
We try to say things that Jesus said –
“You are loved.” “Peace be unto you.”
We try to understand the way Jesus did –
in compassion, patience, and wisdom.
Life is love, and is the fullest
when it is expressed in our own way,
as it is needed in the present moment.

7. For Jesus taught us to pray,
“Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, On earth
As it is in heaven.”

*“Our soul will never find rest until it unites with Jesus
and understands that he is the fullness of all joy.”*

- Julian of Norwich