

Chapter 2, Paragraph 2,3, & 4  
JESUS AND US

“Jesus did not come to us to change God’s mind about humans – God’s love and mercy were everlasting before time, and on into eternity.”

This statement challenges the deep-rooted belief that a wrathful God needed a blood sacrifice of God’s own Son before mankind could be “right with God.” God and mankind have always been “right” together, as any loving relationship should be. If Jesus came to pay some sort of ransom (read: rescue), then God’s love is conditional – not unconditional.

But we are also taught that God’s love IS unconditional – therefore it needs no “ransom.” The whole idea of a blood ransom emerged way after Christ was resurrected.

Then why did God send Jesus to us?

Paragraph 3 goes on to say, “Jesus came to us to change *our* minds about God. Jesus came to show us what God is like.” God is not a wrathful, vengeance-filled spirit who puts us in a difficult world in difficult circumstances and then seeks to punish us for failing to reach perfection in it. God is a true parent, who really loves humankind, and wants the best for us.

God also came to us in the form of Jesus because God wanted to be nearer to the creation that is loved. Who would not want to be with their beloved? And, as paragraph 4 points out, Jesus came to us to save us – from ourselves. He brought the divine wisdom to share with us, which would bring peace and prosperity to all if it was followed. It is a path to salvation that begins here on earth.

So, why was Jesus crucified if what he brought was all good news?

Not everyone views good news as good news. There were those in power who enjoyed their position and privileges – and the wisdom that Jesus brought for everyone would reduce or even eliminate these social imbalances. The wisdom of Jesus ran directly counter to much of the status quo at the time (as it does in today’s world too!) . It turns things upside down, and challenges the value system put in place by the collective dysfunctional egos.

Jesus’ ministry was so disruptive to the elite that they planned the arrest, condemnation, and execution of Jesus. They had to get rid of him. The crucifixion was not divinely ordained, but it was highly predictable.

Chapter 2 of the Common Rule assures us that God’s love for us is eternal, stable, and unchanging. It is unconditional, and something we can depend on. We are united with God through and in Jesus – we are all interconnected, and as such, we are one family.

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