

God as Creator is a basic tenant of all religious faiths, and Christians are no different. But in today's Gospel, John says something surprising and in the religious culture of the time he lived in, something considered blasphemous.

John declares that Jesus is the source of all creation and that nothing that was made was made without his presence and power. This opening volley is in response to those already emerging theologies that tried to place Jesus as a representative of god, surely, and a holy person and maybe even prophet, but God?

I grew up in a Christian tradition that spent a lot of time in four sizing the divinity of Jesus, they spent a lot of time talking about the end times, being ready when Jesus came back, and the kingdom of God and Thrones in powers and streets of gold. it was kind of like the only reason you were alive was to not live as human but the focus completely on the end of your life.

And I always had this feeling that the humanity of Jesus was just just a means to an end. that Jesus humanity

wasn't really that important except as a sacrificial device.

Today's scripture all talk about Jesus identity in the godhead as creator and that's true, if we believe scripture be true, it's true... but Jesus also came here as human being to reveal to us what the nature of the Creator was and to show us what God looks like walking around in the flesh.

When I was reading the first chapter of John this week another scripture lap to my mind from Philipians

'...Christ Jesus,<sup>a</sup> **6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>b</sup> **7**but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>c</sup> being born in the likeness of men. **8**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

I like read about 10 different translations of a verse to see what is the common nugget or what idea I might be missing

the kjv says

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

The international version is downright poetic  
In God's own form existed he,  
and shared with God equality,  
deemed nothing needed grasping

the Aramaic translates it as **6**

'He who, while he was in the form of God, did not esteem this as a prize, that he was the equal of God, **7** But he stripped himself and took the form of a Servant and was in the form of the children of men, and was found in fashion as a man. **8** And he humbled himself and was obedient unto death, even the death of being crucified.

Throughout the entire length and breadth of Jesus ministry his disciples, the pharisees, Rome kept trying to put Jesus on a throne, have him call legions of angels, establish a kingdom, rule, defeat, overpower.

It is thought by biblical scholars that Judas iscariot was a nationalist zealot and joined Jesus because he believed he was going to be the Messiah on earth and when it became patently obvious that Jesus had no Desire or intention to overthrow Rome and rule in Jerusalem Judas became bitter and betrayed him.

People like a God who will smite their enemies, people

like a god who is powerful, people like a god who can move things around for them.

But the ways that Jesus demonstrated his kingship, his character as god, his creator heart while he was here on Earth Disrupted People's ideas about the character in power of god especially his disciples.

this is one of my favourite stories about Jesus Creator kingship

**3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, **4** rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. **5** Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." **8** Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

You know how much I love Peter. he always gets the wrong end of the Stick, but he always gets there in the end.

This is how Jesus demonstrated the creator character of God while he lived on Earth

Jesus hated hypocrisy. He taught that if you say you love God then your actions should reflect your beliefs. This means that ... if Jesus says help the poor, you give money or time to the poor. ... if Jesus says 'love your neighbour' you love every last one! Jesus taught not to judge others and to have a look at yourself before criticising others. For example when he took the side of the women caught in adultery he shows this teaching. Luke 6: 42 "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite,"

His 'Agape' love is self -giving love and gives without expecting anything in return, it is the kind of love that puts the other person first.

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus taught that if a person really was his follower then they would help others in need, when they do then it is like they are doing it - not just for god. But TO God. he taught us to help others in need e.g. give food, drink, look after strangers, not just your family, make sure

someone has the clothes they need, to visit and look after the sick and to visit those in prison. I have only visited someone in prison once and he was a kid from my youth group... Did you know that most prisons have visitation programmes? Jesus says that when we do, we are ministering to the Creator God's heart.

He habitually hangs out with people that the world decided were contaminated, dirty, unacceptable, They are not folks he is doing this nice thing for by spending time with them, they have become his friends. he knelt down and spoke to children and used them as an example of how we need to think to enter the kingdom mentality.

Being a Christ person is an action, not a belief. Its a way of living, not a Sunday obligation.

Jesus had stern words repeatedly for religion without loving action to support it.

I would invite you to look at Matthew 23 over Lent for a taste of How Jesus feels about empty religion.

### **This is Jesus Religion**

every moment'

from the time Jesus decides to go back to Jerusalem against the advice of his disciples when he prays bloody sweat in the garden when he heals the guards ear when he goes with the Soldiers and he suffers so silently

when he gives up his life  
when he leads the Dead out  
of Hades back to the world  
when he tells Thomas  
to put his hands in his side  
when he calls Mary's name  
at the tomb,  
when he forgives Peter.  
Every Little Piece  
that says he loves us  
and sees our incomprehensible worth.

Without fail Every single example that Jesus gives in the Gospels about serving God are directly tied into serving each other, no I am going to amend that. They are tied into serving people we would not even associate with normally. Strangers, people outside the circle. People we don't know yet.

That's hard, right?

How do we find the way within ourselves to do that?

We follow him. He walked it ahead of us.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, <sup>a</sup>

for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you



## Philippians 2

**1**So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2**complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

**4**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>a</sup> **6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>b</sup> **7**but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>c</sup> being born in the likeness of men.

**8**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10**so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11**and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Those knees will not bow because they are afraid, they will not bow because they were forced to bow,. Those knees will bow because the character of the creator God

, revealed in the person of Jesus will have overwhelmed them with his avalanche of love and mercy.

As the incarnate

Body of Christ on this earth,

We are called to be part of that avalanche



