



Jesus is a
Cooooool guy,
Man!

THIS IS A MESSAGE OF LOVE, AND WITH LOVE

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"Dear Billy, I want to be a Christian. But before that, I want to have some fun..." The book "Dear Billy" (Questions to Billy Graham) starts with this question, asked by a teenage girl. What did she mean? Can't a Christian have any fun in life?

It would seem so, especially when we see the faces of many Christians... They are "serious people!" I remember hearing Osho lamenting in one of his speeches ("the Goose is out") that all religious people are long faced!

Look at the pictures and statues of the founders of different religions. No smiling

faces! Buddha has a long face, Mahavira has a long face... Most of the eastern deities are long faced as are their followers! They don't smile, they don't eat well, they don't sing...

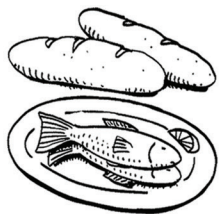
But what do you think of Jesus? I'm quite sure that Jesus was different when He lived in this world. He was certainly different from the religious people of His time. He was "normal." He lived like normal people; slept like normal people and ate like normal people!

Humour is Human

Jesus spoke big, big things... but He presented them in a very cool way. Go through Matthew chapter 13 and see how He presented the big truths about the Kingdom of God in a very simple way! Many of His parables were filled with humor. Can you keep yourself from laughing when you see a camel go through the eye of a needle? Will you not laugh at the person who started a big project like building a big tower with only a few bucks in his hands and finally struggles to finish its first floor?

Some times fasting, some times feasting

Jesus insisted that His disciples fast and pray, but He was not against observing feasts at times. He even loved feasts... Many of His parables were "feast parables" (Matthew 22:2; Luke 13:21; 14:15). His famous parable about the prodigal son gets its heights at a feast. He was invited for feasts very often and He never refused. (See Luke 7:36. "Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee's house



and reclined at the table.” NIV) But remember, Jesus did not eat alone. That is gluttony. Feasts were for social enjoyment. He was part of a society and He even attended marriages. Jesus was not a glutton, although many called Him so.

Friend of the publicans

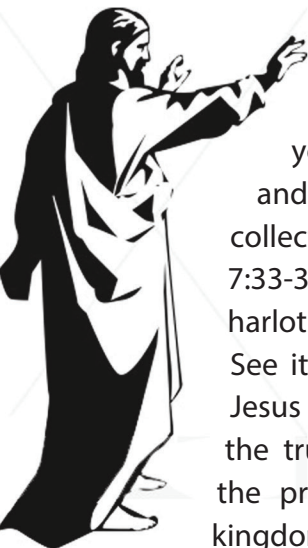
The religious people of Jesus' time, were reluctant to meet women in public. Sometimes the Pharisees bound their eyes with a robe when they walked on the streets so that they might not look at women. Naturally, they hit themselves on walls and other objects on the roadside and many times they bled. (They were called the “bleeding Pharisees”). They considered it the mark of saints.

But Jesus knew who He was. He never did anything to please people. He loved everybody. He spoke to women, even to people of low reputation. Remember, He spent time with the Samaritan woman and even His disciples could not appreciate it. (See John 4:27: “Just then His disciples returned



and were surprised to find Him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” They knew, even when Jesus was simple and approachable, he was holy and without blemish).

Jesus was pure in heart and soul. He did not need attestation from the hypocrites of his time. It is not what people say about you that matters, but what you actually are. Jesus said to the hypocrites: “John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you



say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." (Luke 7:33-34 NIV"- sinners here means harlots- It was an Aramaic phrase. See its equivalent in Matt 21:31: Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you).

Remember, Jesus lived pure in an unholy world. He loved sinners, but not sin!

Be cool

Jesus was a person like us... He had emotions like you and me... He was joyful most times... sometimes He was sad. He had compassion for people in trouble. He never pretended to be strong by suppressing His emotions. He was a simple guy who expressed His emotions.

Jesus was not reluctant to express the joy of

His heart. When His disciples returned after a successful ministry, He unleashed His spirit to rejoice. ("At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth" Luke 10:21)

When His friend Lazarus died and the sisters were troubled, Jesus wept...like a man..! ("When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled... Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" John 11:33-36 NIV)

Friend of Everybody

Jesus was approachable for people of all walks of life. He was friend of everybody, even children. Some people brought children to Jesus for him to



place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (Mar 10:13-14)



Fond of singing

Many do not know that Jesus was fond of singing. He was fond of Psalms and many times He quoted from the Psalms. (Psalms were songs of the Jewish community) Even at the times of His trouble before His passions He sang with His disciples. ("When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Matt 26:30 NIV")

Come on, Peter, Walk on the water

When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water, he also wanted to do the same. Jesus didn't stop him! He didn't say, this kind of special

ability is reserved for me. He allowed Peter to walk on water... There was nothing to gain in doing so. It was just for fun... But Jesus allowed it.

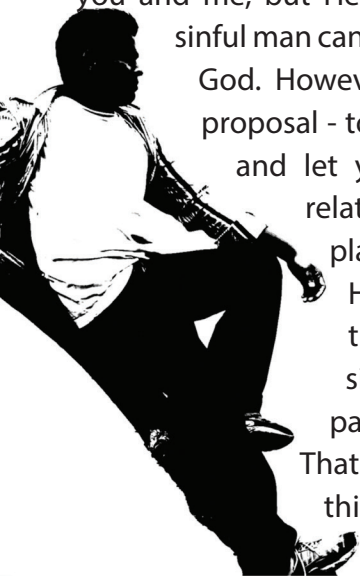
Jesus was coool. ("During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake... "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matt 14 25-30 NIV")



This Jesus wants to be your friend. He likes to call you a friend. (John 15:15) Why don't you make friendship with Jesus? He is a cool...ool guy. But He is calling for a warm friendship.

Oh! No! I am a sinner... How can I have friendship with Jesus? Even though he lived as a Man in this world, He is Holy God right?

Is that you saying this? Yes, you are right in a way... Jesus lived in this world as a man like you and me, but He is eternal God! True, a sinful man can't have relationship with God. However, Jesus has a special proposal - to free you from your sin and let you enter into a close relationship with God... His plan is something divine. He decided to take away the punishment of your sin (as if somebody is paying off all your debts). That's why Jesus came to this world... to die on a cross on your behalf -



bearing all the consequences of your sin- and setting you free from its punishment. He did it. All you need to do is receive it. If somebody gives you a cheque, you need to accept it, acknowledge it by signing on it to encash it right?



Likewise, Jesus died on a cross to free you from your sin, guilt and death. However, you need to acknowledge it and confess Him with your mouth...

The publican prayed a minute's prayer: He stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' (Luke. 18:13) And he was forgiven. The penitent thief on the cross just asked Jesus to remember him, and Jesus promised him a seat with him in paradise (Luke 23:42-43) Peter confessed with tears that he was a sinner. He even said "Please, away from me, Lord! I am not worthy to come closer to you... Oh! I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8). He was afraid that Jesus would

punish him for his sins. Jesus, however, did not send him away... "Don't be afraid, Peter," Jesus said: "I am going to make friendship with you. I gonna make you win people for God!" (Luke. 5: 8-10)

Oh! That's wonderful! You say, if I ask Jesus will he be my friend right now? Can I be redeemed from my past sins and live a holy life then?

Of course my friend... Jesus is a cool guy. He is ready to accept you and make you His friend... a whole new world is awaiting you... A world of Joy, Freedom, Holiness and friendship with Jesus... Why don't you just confess your sins and ask Him for forgiveness? Jesus will make you His friend, right now! Just say:

Jesus, I am a sinner. I was awaiting punishment... I was trapped in fear, guilt and shame. Now, I understand that you are interested in me, this poor guy, and ready to forgive my sins and make me your friend! I know I do not deserve it. The only thing I can ask is

***for your mercy! Have mercy upon me,
Lord Jesus! Make me your friend... I am
yours, Amen!***

If you have queries, don't hesitate to contact
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