

Article Title— **“What Was Jesus Really Like?”**Article Category— **The Warm Fuzzies**[www.Link1.info](http://www.Link1.info)

Tears flow fancifully down the faces of many as they sing, "To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus; that's all I want—to be like Him." So the burning question becomes "What was He like?" What was He *really* like? Some say He was our premiere example of compassion. Others say He was a pacifist or even a Socialist. Growing numbers of people have come to believe that He sought to teach us how and why to focus, primarily, on our spirituality. My scholarly colleagues and I are convinced that He was, above all, an intellectual anomaly. Yep, we think He was smarter than anyone else in all of human history. Could He have been anything less? Have you heard what Napoleon Bonaparte said about that?

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_345e2e0ca79846f587798f25582d461f.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_345e2e0ca79846f587798f25582d461f.pdf)

Yes, I know: Our conclusion that Jesus demonstrated His unique intelligence more than any other quality doesn't sound especially religious. But, then you may know that fables typically sound and feel more religious than Truth. That's why Satan's forces so easily leverage them to yield the apostasy that has become so abundantly evident in the 21st-Century visible church. Most folk won't endure sound doctrine, you know. (See 2 Timothy 4:3.)

Today's wildly popular fables-based religion focuses on spirituality (often hyperspirituality) and emotionalism. Its fan clubs are reminiscent of the re-emerging Socialism fan clubs: It sounds and feels good and it looks really great on paper, but it doesn't work. Even the First-Century Christians were lured for a short time by the "religious" sound and feel of Socialism. The American Pilgrims reasoned that they should *follow their hearts* when choosing a system of self government. They had, after all, just escaped the religious persecution of an evil secular government. Their *hearts* pointed them to the presumed moral high ground of what we've come to know as Socialism. Sounded good and felt really wonderful to them. Surely God would bless them in that pursuit of righteousness in such an important matter! They almost starved to death. John Stossel addressed that point rather effectively in this really short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7ruzke39Qc>

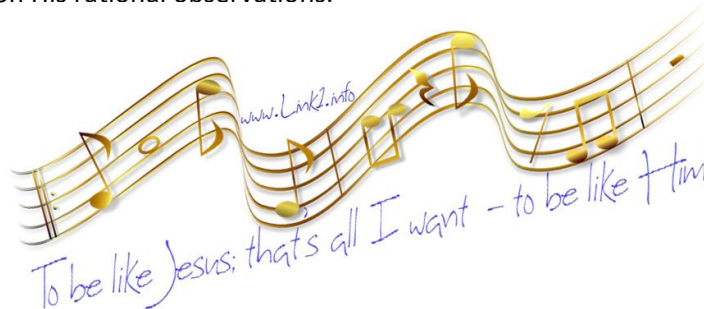
You may find it rewarding to become fully aware of something about which most people are not aware—that Human Nature is the Sin Nature. If it weren't for that fly in the feel-good ointment, Socialism just might work. Only when our Lord comes to establish His rule of righteousness might it work. Okay, so maybe that effectively answers that question, "Was He a Socialist?" Now, was He a pacifist?

Would a pacifist walk into a house of worship and start turning over tables and wielding a whip? What pacifist, in your mind, would say something like this?

> "...and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." —Luke 22:36

Do you suppose He required those followers of His to join a militia first?...or maybe they could only use their swords to clear vines and such to carve paths for themselves through jungles and rain forests?...or to kill an occasional chicken to fry up for supper? ...or maybe He restricted them to really short, dull swords that had to be padlocked in their leather sheathes for safety? Back to you: Was Jesus a pacifist?

Was He our premiere example of compassion? Well, He certainly demonstrated compassion, but that was always in doing what needed to be done, based on His rational observations.



NO scripture compels believers to take on Christ's heart; but several of them instruct us to put on His MIND. Here are a few examples:

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



- > "The HEART [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?" —Jeremiah 17:9
- > "He that trusteth in his own HEART is a fool..." —Proverbs 28:26
- > "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND..." —Paul, at Romans 12:2
- > "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." —Paul, at Philippians 2:5
- > "...not a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound MIND..." —Paul, at 2 Timothy 1:7
- > "...Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same MIND..." —1 Peter 4:1

None of that sounds especially "religious" or "spiritual;" does it? So, then, why have we come to associate "church" with what's called "praise and worship?" Isn't that...well, like making pursuit of "the warm fuzzies" our primary objective when we gather for "church?" Can you cite a 1st-Century precedent for it? How might that phenomenon factor in to this pragmatic proclamation of our Heavenly Father?

- > "My people are destroyed for lack of [*righteousness?*] [*sincerity?*] [*worship?*] [*hyperspirituality?*] [*prayer?*] [*faith?*] [*holiness?*] [*regular church attendance?*] [*believing "what 'we' believe"?*] [*getting "truly 'saved'?"*] knowledge..." —Hosea 4:6

Still struggling with this? Need more scriptural substance? Examine Jesus' post-wilderness-experience temptation. Read that at Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. With each of his attempts to gain control of Jesus, Satan brilliantly appealed, not to Jesus' intellect, but to his FEELINGS. With equal brilliance Jesus forced himself to ignore His *feelings* and to respond using only his mind—His BRAIN. How did he do that?

- A. He reminded himself (and Satan) that God's word is in writing.
- B. He reminded himself that it is in writing for a critical primary purpose—so that those who will resolve to cast off denominational dogma and to demand Original 1st-Century Truth need never be betrayed by FEELINGS.
- C. He forced himself to rely *totally* on what is written.

Jesus' feelings bore witness to extreme weakness and hunger and thirst. But He responded rationally, "It is written..." Satan enticed Jesus to be subjective. Jesus opted for objectivity.

Satan enticed Jesus to consider his EMOTIONS (i.e.: His broken spirit). Jesus chose to use his MIND.

Satan enticed Jesus to rationalize. Jesus chose to be rational.

He chose to reason logically and to be practical, not "spiritual," hyperspiritual or emotional in responding. Why did He do that? He had but one primary purpose—to establish an eternally critical precedent for you and me.

So now we have a solid New Testament PRECEDENT for our thinking and behavior. It resembles the Old Testament precedent in that it establishes clear boundaries...

The Old Testament is a record of God's effort to teach the Hebrews why and how To THINK rationally—to use their MINDS, *not* their HEARTS, for that: It is reasonably characterized like this: "These are the boundaries for your behavior and your thinking. Stay within these boundaries to enjoy my blessings and my protection. Step one foot outside these boundaries and you're on your own. Step back inside with plans to stay and you can, again, enjoy my blessings and my protection."


'Tis blasphemy to "spiritualize" such a simple and practical concept...to embrace inverted logic and miss the whole point.

"When I look back over my life, though I can recall my emotions at different times, the overriding question that comes to mind is the one I am persuaded that God will put to me on that day. It is not, when one thing or another occurred, 'How did you FEEL?' but rather, 'What did you DO?' My Lord, help me not to let my deceitful heart decide my actions, that my answer to You, when You call upon me, is as clear as the mind you gave me, and not muddled by the ramblings of a wandering heart."  
—Stanley Levy, a member of TC's Friends Club on Facebook

The apostle, Paul, wrote this near the end of his life: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith." That's at 2 Timothy 4:7. Imagine, if you will, what Jesus might think if Paul had written something like, "I feel pretty good about myself at this point. What I've done for the Lord must have been what He wanted me to do or I wouldn't have felt the hyperspiritual 'warm fuzzies' nearly so often."



I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. 


"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



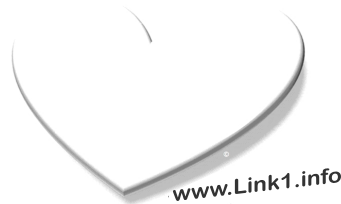
For Christian believers and every other human being, "Doing What Comes Naturally" comes all too naturally. Because Human Nature is the Sin nature, we are instructed to crucify it. What comes naturally is captured in two dangerously misguided *religious* clichés: "Follow your heart" and "Let your conscience be your guide." Follow this link to more valuable insight on that: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_95a5f967a3e949379eaba73554a0b9db.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_95a5f967a3e949379eaba73554a0b9db.pdf)

It is likely that most of those who tearfully sing "To Be Like Jesus" are not aware that Jesus never even once permitted His feelings to interfere with his rational thinking and pragmatic behavior. That's what He's really like.

Want to be like Him? That's how.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: To participate in Bible discussions about articles like this one – or to just read and enjoy them – join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>




The Pilgrims reasoned that they should *follow their hearts* when choosing a system of self government. They had, after all, just escaped the religious persecution of an evil secular government. Their *hearts* pointed them to the presumed moral high ground of what we've come to know as Socialism. Sounded good and felt especially *religious* to them. Surely God would bless them in that pursuit of righteousness in such an important matter! They almost starved to death.

"He that trusteth in his own HEART is a fool..."

—Proverbs 28:26

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. 

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

