

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

The Christus Victor Paradigm of the First Century (Handout 1)

A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.
-Mahatma Gandhi

Romans 5.8—But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1John 3.16—This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

1John 3.8—The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Genesis 3.1-6—Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Luke 4.5,6—And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.”

1John 5.19—The whole world is under the control of the evil one.

John 16.11— . . . the prince of this world . . .

John 14.30—I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me.

John 12.31—Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Luke 13.32—He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I complete my mission.’”

Luke 11.21,22—When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

John 8.44—He is a liar and the father of lies. (cf. Genesis 3:1-6)

John 12.27.28—Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, “Father, save Me from this hour?” But for this purpose I came to this hour. “Father, glorify Your name.”

John 17.1-6—Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You . . . This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do . . . I have manifested Your name . . .

Luke 7.42 (KJV)—“And when they [two debtors] had nothing to pay, he [their creditor] frankly forgave them both”

John 10.30—“I and the Father are one.”

John 14.10 (NIV)—“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work.”

John 14:9—Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

2 Corinthians 5.19—God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

Ephesians 4.32—Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Luke 23.34—But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

“Forgiveness means refusing to make them pay for what they did. However to refrain from lashing out at someone, when you want to do so with all your being, is agony. It is a form of suffering, You are absorbing the debt, taking the cost of it, completely on yourself instead of taking it out on the other person. It hurts terribly. Many people would say it feels like a kind of death. Yes, but it is a death that leads to resurrection,