

## P.E.A.R.s™ Periodic Encouragement And Reminders – Is Jesus Relevant?©

Wow! What a question – Is Jesus relevant?

I'm sure the initial, unspoken response to that question by many readers will be: *“Well...sorta. When I die it would be nice to know He's real and perhaps able to say something positive about my life. I guess, too, if I really thought about it, some of the things He teaches in the Bible on questions of right and wrong make sense. But, does He have a significant place in every aspect of my life, hmmm...I don't think so.”*

Though a response like that can be expected from someone who has not yet received Christ as his or her Savior, the unfortunate truth is that many studies reveal the response from most Christians would likely be pretty much the same. They simply have put Jesus “on hold” when it comes to truly knowing Him. They give Him their attention on Sundays in Church, but don't include Him very much, if at all, in the other aspects of their lives.

The real question, though, should not be what believers or non-believers think and express from the finite human perspective, but what does the Bible say about the relevance of Jesus:

*“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” [John 14:6]*

*“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” [John 15:5]*

*“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” [John 1:3]*

God's eternal existence (from before the beginning of time and into the future forever) includes Christ. It was through Christ as the Word of God that all things were created and it is only through Christ that the restoration of you and I can be competed to receive our place and inheritance in His Kingdom.

Our involvement with Him and His involvement with us is the very substance of our being. Nothing is more relevant than that! Without Him, we can have no success or fulfillment.

If we look for a moment at John 15:5 from above (literally and figuratively), the ability to bear much fruit when abiding in Christ (meaning connected to and receiving the nourishment of God) produces rewards both before and after the moment of our deaths.

The relevancy of Jesus in every aspect of what you and I do is the factor that creates life to the fullest – while we are here on earth as well as after death. Not only is that the promise of God in the Bible, but such is actually experienced by everyone accepting Christ as their Savior and receiving Him as their Lord.

A secondary or perhaps preliminary question to the relevancy of Jesus is this: *“What’s the when, where and how of your current effort to live a life of significance and fulfillment?”* In a way, it’s a question of *“who is your teacher of truth and reality?”*

Is it Oprah; Dr. Phil; President Bush; the Pope; your social friends or business colleagues, or maybe your wise ‘ol grandfather?

As Dallas Willard points out in his book, *The Divine Conspiracy* - whether we are believers or non-believers, *“We seem prepared to learn how to live from almost anyone but Christ.”*

*Where we spontaneously look for information on how to live is a definite indication of how we truly feel and who we really have confidence in. Nothing more forcibly demonstrates the relevance or irrelevance we place in Jesus as the teacher for our “real” lives.*

*A feeling of irrelevancy in God’s presence and involvement in what makes up our lives is the foundational flaw in the existence of mankind today.*

*The contemporary man or woman simply has no compelling sense that an understanding of and conformity with the teachings of Christ is of any vital importance to his or her life.*

The Bible, however, declares just the opposite.

We see that not only in the verses given earlier in this P.E.A.R. but throughout the Scriptures, including again Christ’s own words in Matthew 7:21 and Luke 6:46. Knowledge of Him will, of itself alone, provide no redemption. To abide in Him and receive His promises requires *doing* what He teaches.

So, how do we learn about and apply the relevance of Jesus in every aspect of our lives?

Before commenting on that, let me ask these questions: If you wanted to learn more about Dr. Phil and his teachings, how would you do it? If you were curious as to whether or not the exercise routines and diet programs of a fitness guru could improve your physical being and whether or not he actually practiced what he taught, what steps or efforts would you make?

Well, then, do the same thing with God.

Read His Book; arrange to talk to Him (with prayer); ask people who have already enrolled in His program and find out what impact it’s had on their lives. And, try it yourself.

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Is Jesus relevant? Hmm...Does the sun rise in the east and set in the west? Will you die if you don't receive air, water and food? Did everything that came into existence do so through Him?

Apart from Him, we can do nothing. *People cannot be successful and leave God out of their lives. The same is true for those who call themselves Christians, but who rarely, if ever, consider the plans and purposes God has for them.* [Charles Stanley, "Success God's Way"]

Christ is our only source of true substance. He is the Word of God and the Maker of every sun, star and atom in the universe. He has power over all things now and forever.

He *is* reality - apart from whom nothing has, can or will exist. He *is* the only Way to the Father and the only source of a fulfilled life.

Thus, in everything we do, Christ should be the focus and glory. Without Him, not only will we fall short of any real "success" here on earth, but we will also be forever separated from God

So, is Jesus relevant? In God's name He is the greatest Relevance that ever has been or ever will be!

Have a great week! (And to my family, love Dad)

Bob Alderman