

Jesus Christ the Overcomer, Part 2

Take a look at these two sets of words and phrases. Which set best characterizes Jesus and Christianity? You must choose only one.

Set 1: Competence, power, efficiency, achievement, skills, proving oneself, results, accomplishment, objective, technology, goal oriented, self-sufficiency, success, and competition.

Set 2: Love, communication, beauty, relationships, support, help, nurturing, feelings, sharing, relating, harmony, community, loving cooperation, and personal expression.

According to David Moreau, in his book, *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, when people both inside and outside the church are given this choice, 95 percent of them choose the second set to describe Jesus and Christianity. The first list are terms and phrases that are usually characterized as masculine, while the second set is more feminine.

The point he wants to make is that we have typically associated with Jesus, and with Christianity, a soft set of virtues.

Our vision of Christ must not be one dimensional.

Fearing God or Being Afraid of Him?

The Christian life is learning to let go of the wrong fear and learning to embrace the right kind of fear. That's what we see—John falls on his face though dead, and Jesus says, *Do not be afraid*. That's what the Christian life is all about; living in the fear of the Lord and not being afraid.

Free Solo

The mountain climber said this about his lack of fear: "I've been doing this for so long, that I have an expansive comfort zone with things that people are normally afraid of."

How We Should See Christ

Is it possible for some of us to have this same comfort zone with Jesus, that we do not fear Him?

Its a good thing to have intimacy with Christ, but can it happen that there is such a familiarity and comfort level with Christ, that there is no longer any fear of Him?

A theme of Revelation is that to see Jesus Christ is to be fearful, and not to be afraid. Until we can understand that paradox we cannot understand this book, or what it means to be a Christian.

In these verses, John sees Jesus standing among the churches. As he stands there, he is acting the part of the high priest, tending to the menorah, the seven golden lamps stands, seeing that their wicks are trimmed, seeing that their light is not extinguished, calling them to faithfulness and repentance that they might not be snuffed out. He is our great high priest performing priestly duties on our behalf.

Son of Man

Notice in verse 13, Jesus is one like a Son of Man.

Son of Man is not a description of his humanity; it is much more a description of His deity, because Son of Man language comes directly from Daniel 7. This is a key verse in the Old Testament.

When Jesus is described here in Revelation as one like a Son of Man. It is a reference, not to his humanity, but to his exalted deity. This is none other than God Himself. In fact, every element of the description of Jesus comes from some description of God, or the Messiah in the Old Testament.

This is *not* a literal picture of what Jesus looks like. It *is* a literal picture of what Jesus *is* like. What he looks like and what he is like, is to describe the glory and the grander of Christ, fulfilling all of these Old Testament images.

Do you understand now why John fell at Christ's feet as though he was dead? Having a glimpse of this exalted Christ, he did not rush to hug him or shake his hand, or say, "Jesus is my buddy."

This is not the only time that this happened in the Scriptures.
See Daniel 10 and Matthew 17:1-8

Could it be that we are too familiar with Jesus; too comfortable with only on aspect of him?

Ask yourself, "Am I too familiar, too comfortable, with Jesus?"