

Jesus Was Not Nice, He Was Eternally Effective - And The Apostles Too

Countering the false view of Jesus in the Church today.

A) GOD'S NATURE (ESSENCE OF GOD)

The essential being of God — who and what God is in Himself, eternally and indivisibly. (Essence = the one, simple, undivided being of God.)

- God is Spirit — immaterial, incorporeal being. God the Spirit is the infinite, personal, holy Lord.
- God is One — purity of essence.
- God is Light — holiness, truth, purity as essential being (holy light, not physical).
- God is Love — eternal self-giving communion.
- God is Living — source of life, self-existent.
- God is a Consuming Fire — holy in purity and judgment.
- God is Invisible — transcendent Spirit, unseen by creatures.
- Aseity / Self-Existence — "I AM," uncaused being.
- Incomprehensibility — God cannot be fully known, surpasses full human understanding.
- God is Blessed — God's perfect, self-sufficient joy (Beatitude).
- Impossibility — not subject to involuntary change or passions.

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B) ATTRIBUTES OF GOD - Perfections

I. Incommunicable Attributes (Essential) "Greatness of God"

- Eternality — God exists endlessly, without beginning or end.
- Holiness — God is perfectly holy in His nature.
- Self-Existence (Aseity) — God exists by the necessity of His own being; He is uncaused.
- Immutability — God does not change in His nature, character, or purpose.
- Omnipotence — God is all-powerful and able to accomplish His perfect will.
- Omniscience — God knows all things—past, present, future, actual, and possible.
- Omnipresence — God is present everywhere, not bound by space.
- Simplicity (Divine Unity) — God's attributes are perfectly one in His being.
- Infinity — God is limitless in being, knowledge, and power.
- Independence — God does not depend on anything or anyone for His existence.
- Incomprehensibility — God is knowable, but beyond full human understanding.
- God's holiness Focus

God's holiness is to be the prime focus humans are to maintain in this life, where sin is present; while God's love is the primary focus in heaven will be the norm.

Or, to put it more theologically precise: Holiness is God's eternal nature, but in heaven His holiness is experienced primarily as love. In this life, His holiness is experienced as separation from sin.

So, a love focus in Eden and Heaven, but in between, holiness is the focus during the presence of sin.

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II. Communicable Attributes (Moral/Relational) "Goodness of God"

- Holiness — God is perfectly holy in His nature.
- Righteousness — God is morally perfect and loves what is right.
- Justice — God perfectly upholds justice in all His ways.
- Jealousy — God zealously guards His honor and covenant.
- Wrath — Holy opposition to sin, God righteously opposes sin and ungodliness.
- Omniscience — God knows all things—past, present, future, actual, and possible.
- Omnipresence — God is present everywhere, not bound by space.
- Sovereignty — God has supreme authority and absolute rule over all creation.
- Grace — God freely bestows unmerited favor.
- Infinity — God is limitless in being, knowledge, and power.
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III. Communicable Attributes (Moral/Relational) "Goodness of God"

- Merciful and Gracious, Abounding in Love and Faithfulness
- Righteous and Kind in All His Works
- Just and Upright, Perfect in All His Ways
- God is Love
- Beauty as the pleasantness of God's dealings
- Holiness in Character → Israel called to be holy; God disciplines Justice in Character → God vindicates the oppressed, judges wicked
- Wrath in Character → Outpoured against sin in history...
- Love in Character → God so loved the world He gave His Son
- Faithfulness in Character → He keeps covenant promises to...
- Mercy in Character → Compassion shown to the weak repentant
- Wisdom in Character → Directing history and guiding His people
- Peace in Character → Shalom given to His people

Why was Jesus so intense, and even harsh on many occasions?

Because God really is so great and so holy. God really is the centre of the universe and life itself

Constantly today, Christians make wrong judgments, disownment, statements, decisions and reproof of others, because they do not know God's truth. **1Cor 15:34** Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all. NLT

We demand "nice" when Scripture says: Rom 9:32 ...They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

Jesus' "Abrupt Weighty Pivot" Episodes Revealing His Intensity

A human response of admiration/pity/comfort/neuralgic joy with an abrupt weighty warning, judgment, exposure, death/cross/guilty/obedience. Just as we do.

• Will of God (Decretive, Preceptive, and Permissive).

• Decrees of God.

Trigger: "Your mother and your brothers..."

• Mat 12:46-50, Luk 8:19-21 — Family notice God's kinship by pedigree.

• Pivots: "Whoever does the will of my Father... is my brother and sister and mother."

• Mat 15:21-28, Mar 7:27-29 — For mercy → covenantality / "dog."

Trigger: "Your mother and your brothers..."

• Mat 15:21 — "I sent only..." (Mat 15:24; not right, to the dogs.)

Trigger: "I'm not a dog..." (Mat 15:24)

• Mat 24:1-2, Mar 13:1-2, Luk 21:5-6 — Admitting the truth; not to the dogs...

Trigger: "disciples show the buildings of the temple..."

• Luk 7:36-50 — Polite hosting → exposure and reversal

• Emotions / Divine Affections — God's affections are real and covenantally consistent with His holy nature (not unstable passions).

• Kingdom Program (Missio Dei, Creation → Consummation) • Creation Aim (Design)

• Covenantal Backbone (Promise) • Christocentric Fulfilment (Inauguration) • Providence & Sovereignty (Execution) • Israel/Church Distinction (Integrity)

• Mercy in Character → Compassion shown to the weak repentant

• Compassion — God tenderly cares for His people.

• Faithfulness — God is utterly trustworthy and keeps His promises.

• Truth / Veracity — God's word is true.

• Wisdom — God is infinitely wise in His counsel. God's perfect knowledge applied to achieve His purposes.

• Patience / Longsuffering — God restrains His judgment, giving time for repentance. Delayed judgment.

• Peace (Shalom) — God is the source of wholeness and peace.

• Purity — God is morally pure and cannot look upon evil.

IV. Communicable Attributes (Moral/Relational) "Righteousness of God"

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The interactions of Jesus in the NT

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Book: Enough Already, Stop preaching God's Love for Heaven's Sake

The The Interactions Of Jesus In The NT

Who Was Jesus Not Nice To?

Leaders/Pharisees = 33

Disciples/Crowd = 52

Neutral - 61% Stern - 28% Warm - 11%

Jesus was not focused on being nice, He was focused on being eternally effective.

V. Communicable Attributes (Moral/Relational) "Righteousness of God"

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