

What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?

(Galatians 4:4)

- Introduction:
1. Do you remember the 1946 film classic, *It's A Wonderful Life*?
 2. Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if Jesus had never been born?
 3. Some like Friedreich Nietzsche, the 19th century German philosopher has considered this question, and has declared the world would be a much better place had Jesus never been born.
 - a. He was quick to point out the "sins of the church" as seen in the crusades, inquisition, and witch hunts.
 - b. According to Nietzsche, more people have been killed in the name of Christ than in any other name.
 4. However, such a view is untrue and distorted.
 5. Let's just imagine for a few moments what the world would be like if Jesus had never been born.

I. Christianity's Impact On The Value Of Life

- A. Children - opposes infanticide, and sacrifice; founded orphanages and foundling homes (Luke 17:1-2; Matthew 19:14).
- B. Women - values her equally to her male counterpart (Galatians 3:28).
- C. The Elderly - opposes euthanasia; founded homes for the aged (1 Timothy 5:1-2; Ephesians 6:2).
- D. Slavery - opposes slavery (Ephesians 6:5-9).

II. Christianity's Impact On Various Areas Of Civilization

- A. Medicine (Matthew 12:15).
- B. Benevolence (Galatians 6:10).
- C. Civil Liberties (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- D. Man's Value (Genesis 1:28).
- E. Morality (Philippians 1:27).
- F. Changed Lives (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- Conclusion:
1. Jesus broke into history nearly 2000 years ago so that we could have an abundant life (John 10:10).
 2. The world would be unrecognizable to us had Jesus never been born.
 3. But the primary thrust of Jesus was not simply to enrich our lives on earth, but to save us from our sins so that we can share in eternal life.