

Why It's Hard To Love Jesus

(John 14:15)

- Introduction:
1. Two millennia ago, God broke into human history in one of the most vulnerable ways possible – as a baby.
 2. And as a baby, Jesus is easy to love. The biblical narrative elicits sympathy and compassion both for Jesus and his “parents.”
 3. But as Jesus became a man, people who would have once been inclined to love him, hated him and crucified him.
 4. Things haven't changed much in 2000 years with reference to Jesus. Millions of people who adore the baby in a manger, but will reject the man.
 5. The reason for this shift is not what some might think; in fact the reason I want to suggest might be offensive to some, but here it is: The reason it is hard to love Jesus is because he commands us to love.

I. He Requires Unconditional Love

- A. (Romans 5:8).
- B. (Luke 10:25-37).
- C. (Matthew 5:43-44).

II. He Requires More Than A Relationship

- A. (John 14:15).
- B. (Matthew 7:21-23).
- C. (John 15:14).

III. He Requires Tough Love

- A. (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- B. (Ephesians 5:11).
- C. (Matthew 10:37).

- Conclusion:
1. So, when I ask the question, “Do you love Jesus?” I'm not just asking if you love the babe in a manger. I'm asking if you like the man who makes moral demands of you.
 2. Surprisingly the command to love, is much harder to obey and embrace than what many think.
 3. The problem people have with Jesus isn't really that he's too strict, too narrow, too judgmental...rather, when we really look at it, it's because he's called us to love; truly love.
 4. It is my hope that you will accept this way of life, and begin or renew your life of love.