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## What's so special about Christmas - Part 2

### One Solitary SINLESS Life

#### Bible Discussion Guide

*Everyone is encouraged to participate in the discussions, but no one is required to talk or read if they feel uncomfortable doing so.  
(<sup>Superscripted text</sup> in scripture passages are from the version's notes.)*

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#### ICE BREAKERS

1. What sport do you think you would be the best at and why? What would you be the worst at?
2. Who have you known that led others as a great example of the right way to do something?

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#### OVERVIEW & OUTLINE

As we approach this Christmas season, I'm converting a sermon I preached in December 2013 into a three-part discussion series. The title of the message was "One Solitary Life." In that message, I share three things that set Jesus apart from all other humans and made His birth worth celebrating. I will begin the series with a story from my past and then we will answer this question:

- A. What three things about Jesus' life as a man on earth set Him apart from all other humans?
  - a. Virgin birth
  - b. Sinless life
  - c. Resurrection from the dead

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#### WHAT SET JESUS APART FROM ALL OTHER HUMANS, PART 2 – SINLESS LIFE

In our introduction we discussed the three things that separated Jesus from all other humans who have ever existed. The second item was His sinless life – according to the New Testament, during his entire 33 years on the planet in human flesh, he committed no sins.

##### 1 Peter 2:22 (HCSB)

*He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth;* <sup>[Isaiah 53:9]</sup>

##### Isaiah 53:9 (NIV)

*He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

##### 1 John 3:5 (NIV)

*But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.*

##### James 1:12-13 (NIV)

*A man who endures trials is blessed, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

##### 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (HCSB)

*He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

3. What benefit is Jesus' sinlessness to us according to 2 Corinthians 5:20-21?

##### Hebrews 2:14-18 (HCSB)

*Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it is clear that He does not reach out to*

*help angels, but to help Abraham's offspring. Therefore, He had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, He is able to help those who are tested.*

Hebrews 4:14-16 (HCSB)

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.*

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NIV)

*During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

Hebrews 7:23-28 (HCSB) NOTE: The whole of Hebrews 7 talks about Christ's all-sufficient priesthood.

<sup>23-25</sup> *Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office. But because He remains forever, He holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.*

<sup>26-28</sup> *For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all when He offered Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever.*

Hebrews 9:13-14, 26-28 (NIV)

<sup>13-14</sup> *The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

<sup>26b-28</sup> *But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

**4. The writer of Hebrews asserts that Jesus was tempted just like we are, but never sinned. According to the writer, what are some ways that Christ's sinlessness benefits us?**

In the movie, "Top Gun: Maverick," Maverick is having trouble teaching the recruits how to navigate the course and make the shots necessary to destroy the targets in the upcoming mission and come home alive. Every training mission is a failure. Finally, just as Admiral Simpson is about to oust Maverick, Maverick takes a plane without permission and flies the mission successfully proving it can be done. This motivates the other pilots enabling them to do the same.

5. In what ways can Jesus' ability while in his human form to stand against temptation and to bear up under the pressure of trials help us when we are having trouble standing?
6. Why does Jesus' willingness to face the same trials and temptations we face make him the best possible high priest?

1 John 1:7-8 (HCSB)

*But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say, "We don't have any sin," we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

1 John 3:7-10 (HCSB)

*Little children, let no one deceive you! The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. The one who commits sin is of the Devil, for the Devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works. Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His[h] seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. This is how God's children—and the Devil's children—are made evident.*

Romans 8:1-4 (AAT)

*So there is no condemnation any more for those who are in union with Christ Jesus. For the life-giving law of the Spirit through Christ Jesus has freed you from the Law of sin and death. For though it was impossible for the Law to do it, hampered as it was by our physical limitations, God, by sending his own Son in our sinful physical form, as a sin-offering, put his condemnation upon sin through his physical nature, so that the requirement of the Law might be fully met in our case, since we live not on the physical but on the spiritual plane.*

7. Because Christ committed no sin, his death paid for ours. John writes in 1 John 1 that we all sin and are lying and making Christ a liar if we say we don't sin. But two chapters later John says that the one who commits sin is of the Devil. How can this be? (Hint: Paul answers that in Romans 8)

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**RESOURCES**

If you would like to hear the sermon I preached in December 2013 on this topic, the audio is available on my website at [www.JimPorterfield.com](http://www.JimPorterfield.com) under the [Media Items](#) menu at [More Than "One Solitary Life"](#).

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**PASTORAL BLESSING**

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**Romans 8:31-39 (AAT)**

*Then what shall we conclude from this? If God is for us, who can be against us? Will not he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, with that gift give us everything? Who can bring any accusation against those whom God has chosen? God pronounces them upright; who can condemn them? Christ Jesus who died, or rather who was raised from the dead, is at God's right hand, and actually pleads for us. Who can separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or misfortune or persecution or hunger or destitution or danger or the sword? As the Scripture says, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long, We are treated like sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor their hierarchies nor the present nor the future nor any supernatural forces either of height or depth will be able to separate us from the love God has shown in Christ Jesus our Lord!*

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**FOR YOUR PERSONAL QUIET TIME**

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Look again at the pastoral blessing/benediction above quoted from [Romans 8:31-39](#).

1. Because of the gift God gave you through the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of His Sinless Son, Jesus Christ, you have access to power. What does power and hope does this passage and the passages we discussed promise to you?
2. What impact does the fact that Jesus was tested and tempted just like you are and was victorious have on you?
3. In what areas of you life do you need God's resurrection power? Take a few minutes to talk to Him about it.

God's blessings on you,

