

Persons are GIFTS....

at least Jesus thought so: "Father, I want those you have given me to be where I am...."

Persons are gifts which the Father sends to me wrapped:

Some are wrapped very beautifully: they are very attractive when I first see them.

Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper.

Once in a while there is a "special delivery."

Others have been mis-handled in the mail.

Some persons are gifts which come very loosely wrapped:

Others very tightly.

But the wrapping is not the gift.

It's an easy way to make this mistake.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open up.

Sometimes I need others to help.

Is it because they are afraid?

Does it hurt?

Maybe they have been opened up before and thrown away.

Could it be that the gift is not for me?

I am a person. Therefore, I am a gift too.

A gift to myself, first of all. The Father gave myself to me...

Have I really looked inside the wrappings?

Perhaps I never accepted the gift that I am...

Could it be that there is something else inside the wrappings than what I think there is?

Maybe, I've never seen the wonderful gift that I am?

Could the Father's gift be anything but beautiful?

I love the gifts which those who love me give to me;

why not this gift from the Father?



1. In light of this first talk, "Who is Jesus " I would say that my relationship with Jesus right now might be described by the words: (choose 2)

- |                                   |                                      |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> O.K      | <input type="checkbox"/> challenging | <input type="checkbox"/> up and down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reserved | <input type="checkbox"/> struggling  | <input type="checkbox"/> exciting    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hopeful  | <input type="checkbox"/> slipping    | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> confused | <input type="checkbox"/> growing     | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

2. In the Gospels Jesus takes on different images. Choose one of the images listed below which you personally identify with and one that brings you comfort.

- a good friend. Jesus knows me better than anyone else. I can count on him for support and encouragement.
- a gentle person. I find it easy to talk things on my mind and in my heart over with the Lord. His answers brings me insight and comfort.
- a strong right arm. In difficult times and troubling times I rely upon the Lord's strength to get me through the unsettling situations I'm facing.
- an understanding heart. Jesus forgives me of all my sins and helps me to begin over again.
- a real healer. Jesus lifts me up by his love for me. I feel freed from all my burdens.
- the suffering servant. Jesus helps me understand and accept with courage the meaning of suffering in my life.
- generosity per se. Jesus gives me the courage and desire to go the extra mile and give more of myself to people.
- the wise teacher . Jesus helps me see and experience the presence of God in my life in simple ways.

3. If Jesus were to walk up to me right now he probably would: (choose one)

- say it's good getting together this week. We have a lot to talk over.
- tap me on the shoulder and with an understanding heart say: "Hang in there !"
- give me a hefty hug and help me feel proud about my present relationship with him.
- place his arm around me and tell me not to be always so hard on myself.
- help me see that his "footprints"/presence have been with me in all areas of my life.
- sit me down and in a gentle way talk over those areas of my life which are putting a serious strain on our friendship.
- walk with me and in a firm but gentle way help me see that there hasn't been much on my part in our friendship.

