

The prejudicial isms--classism, tribalism [etatism, nationalism], racism, sexism--are no problem: Jesus is against them, and efforts to capture him as mascot for any one of them is only ludicrous. More serious are the effects of efforts to baptize Jesus into the various ideological isms. This thinksheet is a declaration of Jesus' freedom from the latter partisan efforts. I've left it outline, with lots of white space for you to work it over.

In Jesus,  
God has come to us  
and proved he's for us and wants us to be for him.  
As man among us modeling man face to face with God in God and God within,  
Jesus lives a trust that will not quit and  
a love that will not waver.

I am his disciple because he calls me to this trust and this love.  
I am his disciple because for me "the Truth" within and beyond the facts is  
what I find in him:

a trust that will not quit and  
a love that will not waver.

I continue as his disciple in spite of my trust's sometimes quitting  
and my love's sometimes wavering  
because he knows my heart knows itself to be at its best  
when it prizes, more than anything else,

his trust that does not quit  
and his love that does not waver.

What temptations did he have to surrender such trust and such love?  
"He was reviled,...and we esteemed him not...."

What securities did he have to support his endurance in such trust and such love?

- Not family.
- Not position in society.
- Not office in state.
- Not wealth.
- Not friends who'd stick with him through thick and thin.
- Nothing.
- Certainly not any ideology--

pacifism\*  
zealotism\*\*  
marxism\*\*\* or any other ism:

Therefore, I say, *In him was life, and that life is our light.*

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\* E.g., Yoder, Edwards.      \*\* E.g., Brandon, Schonfield.      \*\*\* The more strident  
liberation theologians.  
Such efforts to capture him for an ideology and party, <sup>fail</sup> for he is no more  
party-available than available to ancient titles and modern prejudicial isms.