

Mrs. Kirk, the teacher, said to the class, "The task for today is to create an image of Christ. This can be a picture or a sculpture; use your own idea of what you think Christ to be." After a while she began to look at the progress of her students.

Billy had made a sculpture of Christ on a throne. The teacher picked it up to look at it but put it down quickly. "Ooh," she said. "It has such sharp edges, and hurts when you hold it."

Billy replied, "I see Him as a stern judge who demands perfection from us."

The teacher then said, "This is very good, but perhaps you should think a little more about the comfort that can be found in Him."

Joe, who sat close by, called for the teacher. "I drew a closeup of the hand nailed to the cross. I have studied the Roman method of crucifixion and know that this is correct in all of the details."

Mrs. Kirk looked at it and replied, "Yes, the details are important and you have shown them very well. But you may have missed the overall impact of the person of Jesus by focusing in so close."

Cindy was hard at work on a representation of the spirit nature of Christ. She had taken a small plastic bag and affixed it to a conical horn. The teacher came by and asked what it represented and Cindy replied, "This shows how that Christ is a spirit and He speaks to us, telling us what we should do in our personal lives."

"That is an interesting way to illustrate the concept. However, make sure you are careful to check what the spirit tells you against what we know that Christ established while he was here on earth," the teacher replied.

Judy had drawn a picture of Christ on the cross, but where his arms were outstretched there were other arms pulling them in opposite directions. Mrs. Kirk came by and asked about the meaning of the work.

"This illustrates all of the division and hostility in the church today. Everyone is pulling and tugging at Christ so that He can be their group's Savior, but no one else's. People just aren't listening to the message from Christ."

The teacher replied, "You are exactly right in your interpretation! This is a great image of Christ and the problems he still has on this earth."

Jim had produced a work which seemed to defy interpretation. Mrs. Kirk asked him to explain it.

"Well, I started out with a simple picture of Christ on the cross. Then I kept adding things to it which represented the various theologies with which man has modified that simple picture, and it just sort of became confused. Now you cannot even see the original picture underneath."

The teacher replied, "This is another great interpretation of the way in which man has corrupted the pure and simple gospel of grace. Very good, Jim!"

When she came to Kelly's seat, she stopped. Kelly just sat there in anguished thought. She looked at the teacher and said, "My image of Christ is of someone who is alive! Nothing that I can do can fully represent it!"

Mrs. Kirk patted Kelly on the shoulder and said, "I know what you mean. Just keep trying to think of something. It takes a lot of practice to be able to give the appearance of life in a work of art. But you are thinking along the right lines."

She continued, raising the level of her voice so that it could be heard above the room noise. "You have all done well. I hope that this has enabled you to think about Christ in a more positive way. Remember that your image of Christ should be one that comforts you, for we are all saved through his blood."

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