

We sing, “O To Be Like Thee,” #97 in our “Hymns for Worship.” Since we are to “worship in spirit and truth” (**Jn 4:24**), and our singing should be the fruit of letting “the word of Christ richly dwell within you,” it will encourage us to use “all wisdom” when we are “teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (**Col 3:16**). That being true, it is profitable from time to time to consider the words we sing, and in this class we will focus on this particular song.

Verse 1 “O to be like Thee... Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.”

1. Jesus never married—do you want to be “like” Him? Jesus never owned a house—do you want to “wear” his “perfect likeness”? If not, what do you mean when you sing, “O to be like Thee”? _____

Verse 2 “O to be like Thee! full of compassion, loving, forgiving, tender, and kind, helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, seeking the wandering sinner to find.”

2. Jesus was willing to forgive people who had engaged in all kinds of immoral deeds and who sometimes had a terrible reputation (**Jn 8:1-11; Lk 7:36-50; 1Co 6:9-11; 1Co 5:1...2Co 2:8-11**).
- a. To be “like Thee” (Jesus) in my attitude and conduct toward those who have messed up their lives, hurt others, and destroyed their reputation, what must I be ready to do? (**2Co 2:6-11**). _____

Contrast the attitude Jesus says the “religious” man had—**Lk 18:9-14**.

- b. What did Jesus say about those who “cannot forgive”? (**Mt 6:14-15; 18:23-25**) _____
3. Would you describe Jesus’ words in the following examples “tender and kind”? If not, how would you describe them, and why did he speak this way? **Mt 16:23; Mt 23:13-39; Jn 8:24,44-47**. _____
4. What can we *do* to be more “like” Jesus,—“helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, seeking the wandering sinner”? _____

For personal introspection (**Jam 1:22-25**) — *When* is the last time you have done any of these?

Verse 3 “O to be like Thee... harmless...”

5. How do you define “harmless”? _____
6. Based on these Scriptures, does Jesus fit your definition of “harmless”? **Mt 8:30-32; 25:41; Jn 2:15** _____
7. What is the difference in “character” and “caricature”? _____

Verse 4 “O to be like Thee, Lord I am coming, Now to receive the anointing divine...”

8. What does it mean to YOU when you sing it? _____

We will discuss in class what the *author*, Thomas O. Chisholm, likely meant when he wrote it in 1897. Hopefully, it is *not* what YOU mean when you sing it.