

# God refuses to be God without us

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*What's the gospel in seven words? We asked theologians, pastors and others both to answer this question and to expand on this in a few sentences. To see all the responses together as they're posted, bookmark [this page](#). Add your own version [here](#). --Ed.*

God refuses  
to be God without us.

We asked God to say something definite and God, getting personal, sent Jesus Christ. We were surprised. God was other than we imagined. We can't make God into whatever we please. Jesus demonstrated that God is better than omnipotent, omniscient or any other high-sounding abstraction. God is love embodied: nonviolent, relentlessly seeking, convening, suffering love. Human happiness is life lived in response to the God we've got. It's good news: Because God really was in Jesus Christ, reconciling the world to God, we can be with God.