

“The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:14-18

Scripture: 1 John 4:14 *"We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world"*

Introduction:

Have you ever wrestled with understanding some explanation?

Probably many of us have wrestled with putting things together at Christmas time for our kids. Like bicycles and other toys. We get out the tool box and try to figure out how the pieces fit together and if your anything like me, I end up throwing the instructions away and just looking at the picture.

Transitional Statement:

Church, make no mistake about it, God wants Himself fully explained. He wants the world to know Him in all His fullness. And He makes that happen through His Son Jesus the Christ.

I. Jesus became flesh and walked among men.

John 1:14a

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,..."

A. *"flesh"* is the Greek word *"sarx"* and in general means living human flesh.

NOTE. *"sarx"* has 52 pages of definition in my Greek dictionary, which means we must be vigilant to study the context, because it dictates the final meaning in all matters related to the Greek.

1. So here context is certainly dictating that Jesus left the spiritual realm and took on human flesh.

B. The story of how that happened is wonderful indeed.....Luke 2:1-7

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

C. Some people actually denied that Jesus actually became human.

1. Gnosticism of the 1st two centuries believed that Jesus only appeared as a spirit in the form of man, or that the Spirit of Jesus had simply landed on the man Jesus at baptism and left him shortly before his crucifixion.
 - a. There thinking was that physical matter in any form is evil including the body and whatever it does, doesn't really matter because it's evil anyway. Sexual immorality flourished under this thinking.
 - b. Gnosticism promoted that spirituality or salvation came through escaping the body through thought processes of mental knowledge.
 - c. From our seats today we might think how twisted is that. This is what happens when people today try to approach God on their own terms instead of His....certainly a relevant point for us today.

D. So why was it necessary for Jesus to be born in the flesh?

1. Why couldn't He have just sent down his royal memos from heaven through the prophets?
2. Why did God have to become man? ...Let's hear the Hebrew writer.
 - a. Hebrews 4:15
15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
 - 1) The 3 temptations (Matt chapter 4) & His resistance.
 - b. Hebrews 2:14-17
14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. 16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
 - c. Let's summarize:

So He could understand us. So we could see the perfect example. So He could make atonement for sin by his blood sacrifice. So He could take away Satan's power of death. So He could become merciful and faithful high priest.

E. Have you heard the old adage “*you can’t know a man till you walked a mile in his shoes*”

1. When we are tempted to think that no-one could possibly understand our problems....Jesus can because not only is He the Son of God but He had blood pumping through his veins just like you and I, when he stubbed His toe it hurt like a big dog. When the virus was going around He knew sickness also. He worked and had responsibilities also. He knew tiredness and even stress.
 - a. Otherwise He would not have understood temptation from our frail human condition.
 - b. And His choice to obey God would have only been understood as a divine exception and not a human reality.

F. So what did it take for God to get into our shoes?

1. Let’s listen to Philippians 2:6-8

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- a. Jesus had to empty Himself of divine right and privilege
 - b. He had to humble Himself to the point of death.
2. There is no way that we can fully or even partially for that matter understand what it is like for a part of God to give up his spiritual realm and be born in the flesh. But I can tell you this without a doubtit’s a big deal !

G. Church, He wasn’t sent as some royal spirit to simply observe and make input on our condition but he would come to understand our difficulties in this life.

H. Anyone that rejects that Jesus has come in the flesh:

1. 1 John 4:2-3

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

II. The Jesus was lifted up before the eyes of mankind.

John 1:14b

and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A. The Apostles and many others were witnesses of Christ...1 John 1:1-2

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us

B. “glory” has to do with Jesus’ exultation or lifting up.

1. John, along with Peter and James had witnessed Jesus’ glory at the mount of transfiguration (Matt 17) when His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as light.

C. His glory was seen by His faithful declaration of His Father’s words.

1. John 12:49

“ For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.”

D. His glory was seen in His humble servitude. (John 13) washing their feet.

E. His glory was seen in His care for the helpless (Matt 8) cleansing of the leper

F. His glory was seen in the help of the defenseless (Matt 26) lady putting perfume on Jesus.

G. At Jesus’ baptism His glory was seen.... His Father said “*this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*” (Matt 3)

2 Peter 1:17

17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"

H. The miracles of Jesus even showed His glory.....

1. John 2:11

11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

I. The glory of Jesus comes from who He is....Hebrews 1:3

“...He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...”

J. The death of Jesus on the cross was His greatest glory....for in His humble state He brought salvation to all who would believe in Him.

1. Luke 23:34

"... Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing..."

- a. This is His glorious plea for all of us.

III. John's testimony about the eternal Jesus

John 1:15

15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, ' He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

- A. Here John humbles himself and exalts Jesus, by pointing out that Jesus came both after and before him.

- 1. This is impossible
- 2. But Jesus makes all things possible.

- B. Jesus is eternal God.

- 1. The Alpha and Omega (Rev 1:8)
- 2. He was in eternity with God before the world was even made1 Peter 1:20

IV. Jesus completes all things.

John 1:16

16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

- A. Here fullness means completion.

- 1. It marks the fullness of God's intention to reconcile mankind to Himself through His one and only son Jesus.
- 2. And all those connected to Jesus are partakers of that fullness.

- a. Recipients of that completeness

- B. Also, Jesus Himself is ultimately the completion of God's grace to humanity.

- 1. "*grace*" in its basic form has to do with unmerited favor.
- 2. So Jesus is God's piling up of grace on us.

- a. Listen to Titus 2:11

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

V. Grace and truth realized through Jesus

John 1:17

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

- A. It might be easy to think of this as a contrast, but it is more a completion thought.
 - 1. Through Moses came the Law which taught mankind who God was and what His expectations were. The Law of Moses is still important for our understanding today (2 Timothy 3:16). The Law was never an end unto itself but simply a schooling of Israel to lead to Christ...Gal. 3:24
- B. Through Christ came the fullness of God's favor with mankind, His "grace". It would be wrong to say that grace didn't exist until Christ, but the full measure of God's favor couldn't happen until Christ.
 - 1. On the same token, truth was only partial until Jesus was born in the flesh, died on the cross and rose to eternal life.

VI. So who is this Jesus

John 1:18

18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."

- A. He is the very explanation of God
- B. He is according to the Hebrew writer 1:3

"He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power..."

- C. And 1 John 4:9 goes on to say:

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him"

Conclusion:

We should be ever mindful of the fact that Jesus is our completer.

That the favor and truth of God comes through Him... not through our own devices

He who has an ear let him hear Jesus the Christ explain God to us.