

"The Humanity of Christ"

Part 2

John 1:14

Introduction: Today I want to take a look at something that John wrote concerning the birth of Jesus Christ. Today we shall examine John 1:14 but before we do there are several things that we must consider.

The Background of John's Gospel

The Gospel of John was the last of the Gospels to be written. It was written by John for the purpose of convincing people that Jesus is the Christ so that they would receive Him as their Saviour.

John 20:30-31

³⁰ *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:*

³¹ *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

John is very straight forward about why he penned this letter and as we look closely at John 20:31 we can detect that John wrote to correct some of the false concepts of who Jesus really was. By the time John wrote this Gospel a lot of false teaching had developed in the 1st century. The Apostle Paul had warned the elders at Ephesus of what was coming.

Acts 20:28-31

²⁸ *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

²⁹ *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

³⁰ *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

³¹ *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

It was not long after Paul was gone from Ephesus that the false teachers came in and began to teach their false doctrine. One of the teachings that arose was known as Gnosticism. The Gnostics taught that Jesus wasn't really real. They believed that the physical was evil and so to them anything that was real was evil. They taught that God could not have created the world because the world was evil.

They believed the world was created by an evil force and everything material is evil. This then led to the teaching that Jesus could not have been a real man because that would have made Him evil. They believed Jesus to be a phantom of some sort. They taught that when Jesus walked on sandy beaches, He left no footprints because He was not real. This teaching made its way into the church and resulted in denying the humanity of Jesus Christ. We see this in 1 John as John gives a warning to his readers.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

Now it is interesting that when we read the Gospels that we see each writer started in a different place.

- Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus to show that He is the King.
- Mark begins with the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of His public ministry.
- Luke begins with the announcement of Jesus birth.

But John is different. When he begins his letter, he takes his readers way back beyond the creation of the world.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² *The same was in the beginning with God.*

³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

⁴ *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

⁵ *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

Now I want to jump to verse 14.

I. God became a Man

Notice John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Here we have a swing of the pendulum, and it swings down low. John has told us that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were created by Him and now as the pendulum swings low we see that the Divine Creator of the universe becomes a man. The Infinite stepped into the finite. He stepped from the realms of eternity into a world of time. This is Christmas! All that this entails our little minds cannot even begin to understand. This is far too deep for us. But we do know that our God became a Man so that we could have a Saviour.

Let us think back to the disciples and what they experienced. As the years passed by the disciples had time to reflect upon their time with Jesus. As more and more Truth was revealed they were no doubt amazed at the privilege which was given to them. Notice what John recorded in his first epistle.

1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

As the years passed by the disciples began to grasp on to the fact that when they listened to Jesus, they were hearing God, when they looked at Him, they were looking at God, and when they touched Him, they were touching God.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;"

John stands in amazement of the experience that he had while he walked with Jesus on the earth.

John 14:8-11

⁸ *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

⁹ *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

¹⁰ *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

¹¹ *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

Jesus is God in the flesh.

Matthew 1:23

²³ *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

Application:

With all of this then we can understand that the closer we get to our Lord the closer we get to God. If you desire to know more of God then learn more of Jesus, because Jesus is God in a human body. Apart from Jesus Christ it is impossible to know God.

John 8:18-19

¹⁸ *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

¹⁹ *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

John 14:6

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Notice John 1:14 again.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ came into this world for several reasons and one of them was so that man could know God.

Application:

So many people in the world today have the wrong perspective about God as well as the people of John's day. Many people see God as a God of fire and brimstone, wrath and judgment. They see Him as a God who is just waiting to bring judgment down upon the world. But that is not what we read in the Bible.

Ezekiel 33:10-11

¹⁰ *Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?*

¹¹ *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

There are many people who even misread the Bible. Let me show you how this happens.

Genesis 3:7-13

⁷ *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

⁸ *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

⁹ *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

¹⁰ *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

¹¹ *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

¹² *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

¹³ *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

When people read this, they tend to assume the tone of God's voice here is one of an arresting officer. But based upon other passages, His voice should be read as one of a caring and very concerned broken-hearted Father.

Luke 19:41-44

⁴¹ *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.*

⁴² *Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.*

⁴³ *For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,*

⁴⁴ *And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

In a casual reading we do not hear the sobs of our Lord as He looks across the city knowing what is coming. We do not see Him kneeled down with His head in His hands as His heart is broken for these people. And there you see the broken heart of our God, as He is weeping over the lost estate of man. Jesus came to reveal God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

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The Word became flesh and He dwelt among us in order that we might know the truth about God, that He is a God of grace.

Conclusion:

Illustration