

The Mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:14-18

In years past, people struggled to believe that Jesus was truly human. Today, many struggle with his deity. Scripture affirms that Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. One of the foundational truths of Christianity is that *in the incarnation, Jesus, the eternal Son of God took on human flesh and became a man.*

God became flesh (14)

The Word, who was coequal and coeternal with God the Father now became flesh. This is the most concise statement of the incarnation in the Bible.

Jesus did not appear to be a man. He became one.

As God's presence dwelt among the Israelites in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, so God lived among people in the person of Jesus.

Not only was Jesus present on earth, but he demonstrated the glory as of the one and only God.

The apostle John was an eyewitness of Jesus' glory (1 John 1:1).

There is no room in Christianity for syncretism. Jesus is the one and only Son.

Grace and truth characterized the glory of God that Jesus manifested.

John the Baptist was another witness who testified to Jesus' person (15).

While John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus, he acknowledged Jesus' superiority because of his preexistence in eternity and his deity.

All the resources of God are present in Jesus (16-17).

God's grace in Jesus supersedes his grace given through the Law of Moses, and continues to supply what we need day by day.

While Moses brought the Law to God's people, Jesus manifested grace and truth.

Jesus is the exclusive explanation of the Father (18).

In the Old Testament, people saw God in a vision, a theophany, or an anthropomorphic representation of God, rather than an encounter with his unveiled spiritual essence.

God sent his unique and only Son to reveal himself to mankind.

John ends his prologue as he began it, with a reference to Jesus' deity. He began by stating that the Word was with God and he ends by stating that He was at the Father's side. This indicates the intimate fellowship, love, and knowledge that the Father and the Son shared.

Application

Grow deeper in your knowledge and love for God.

Tell others about the grace of God that you have experienced.