

Scripture Reference: John 1:1-5,12,14, & 16

Date: December 16, 2012

Title: "God in the Flesh"

Focus: Jesus, God come in human flesh.

### **Intro:**

1. Who is Jesus? Somehow we believe, like the disciples, we are entitled to our varying answers, no matter how erroneous they may be.
2. Our answers fall short and are wrong, if we do not accept Jesus as God come in human flesh.
3. The correct answer to this question affects your life.

### **Body:**

#### **God in the Flesh (vv. 1-4)**

- John, the author of Revelation, intentionally patterned his opening after Genesis.

From the dawn of creation to its culmination, one finds Jesus.

John intended to *directly* and *unmistakably* identify Jesus with God.

#### Jesus uniquely conveys God as "the word." (v. 1)

- Throughout the OT, prophets declared God, His heart, and will with the statement, "*The Word of the Lord came to me.*"

- With Jesus this finds its *fullest expression*. In Jesus all God is, has done, is doing, or will ever do is perfectly expressed.

He is the ultimate and final statement from The Father. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

- No other religious messenger is capable of this. Jesus is distinct.

- Jesus more than *declares* God's word, He *embodies* them.

#### John leaves no doubt Jesus is God.

- Listen to his assertions:

"*In the beginning was the Word...*" Jesus is not created, but eternal. (Reiterated in v. 2)

As God, He is the agent of creation and the giver of life. (vv. 2-3)

"*...the word was with God....*" He has always enjoyed a distinct position of oneness with God.

"*...and the Word was God.*" There was no confusion on this issue in his mind, Jesus is God.

- He openly states in verse 14; "*The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as the one and only from the Father.*"

John's statements are those of one who intimately knew Jesus (1 John 1:1-4)

#### **Man Does Not and Cannot *Independently* Comprehend who Jesus is (v. 5)**

- Humanity has trouble getting his mind around Jesus.

- This lack of comprehension has a fundamental reason; man does not possess the capacity to figure God out.

Man is not the highest order in creation, God is. Even though we are "*a little lower than God Himself*" (Psalm 8), that distance and difference remains vast.

Humanity is dust, a dependent and limited creature. Whereas God is self-sufficient and limitless.

- Because of our finiteness, revelation is necessary.

- Only when people embrace their finiteness can they accept and surrender themselves to God as He presents Himself. (Matt. 18:3)

Man's inability to comprehend God is manifest in varying ways:

Some don't get Him at all.

**Atheist:** Some for varying reasons, reject the notion of God.

**Secularist:** These people do not reject the idea of God, *they don't even think of Him.*

Quote: "The constant refrain of 'evil' from those seeking to explain today's events is understandable, but really amounts to our personal need to try to find some kind of rational, logical explanation for inherently irrational, illogical events.

I've seen a lot of similar pontifications today, none of them are true, but they all make certain people feel better. We need a reason to feel better, because even if the reason is warped, it explains things."

Some accept God to the degree they can make sense of Him.

- For these individuals, God must fit into the way they view the world. They minimize God and Christ to be good and useful, but not essential.

**Charles Taze Russell**, the founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, couldn't reconcile the idea of Hell or the incarnation. So, he founded a faith that made more sense to him.

Others, foolishly (1 Cor 1:18-21), accept God as He reveals Himself to be.

- God is not *realized*, He is *accepted*.

- God must be received as He has made Himself known.

- When He is, life changes.

*"To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become Children of God." (v. 12)*