

## ***The Word Became Flesh***

**“The Word became 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. And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is at the bosom of the father, **He has declared Him.”**

**John 1:14, 16-18**

“...Who being the brightness of His glory and **the express image of His person...”**

**Hebrews 1:3**

**“He is the image of the invisible God,** the firstborn over all creation.”

**Colossians 1:15**

### **I. Prior to Jesus, God was:**

In a scroll

In a Temple or Synagogue

In Israel

Upset with anyone not living seriously holy

**Religious thinking completely misrepresented God in that day, and today’s Church has not done much better:**

“After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, ***“Why do You eat and***

***drink with tax collectors and sinners?***” Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I have not come to call *the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.***”

**Luke 5:27-32**

Jesus ate and drank with sinners because He loved them and God sent Him to them...this was His ministry.

## II. Jesus took God public; completely beyond all religious thinking.

Jesus was God focused, religious people are self-focused and man’s opinion focused.

### Jesus was:

#### Touching Lepers

##### ❖ **Mark 1:40-45**

“Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.” As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.”

#### Forgiving Adulteresses

##### ❖ **John 8:1-12**

“And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say? So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

### Loving Rejects

#### ❖ Luke 19:1-10

Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; **for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”

**Caring about Centurion’s servants**

**Spending days with Samaritans**

**Setting Demon-Possessed Free**

**Healing the Sick**

**Putting Tax-Collectors in Ministry**

**Seeking and Saving the Lost**

**Rebuking Self-righteous Hypocrites**

**Pouring out His Spirit on ALL Flesh**

❖ **Acts 1:1**

“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,”

**“All He began to do & teach”.....we continue.**

## **Does God’s Plan include you?**

❖ **2 Corinthians 5:19**

“that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**”

## **The Essence of Christianity: Christ lives in and through you.**

❖ **John 14:17**

“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you.**”

❖ **John 14:21**

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, **and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.**”

❖ **1 Corinthians 12:27**

**“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”**

❖ **1 Corinthians 3:16**

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and **that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**”

❖ **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

“Or do you not know **that your body is the temple of the Holy**

**Spirit *who is in you***, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

❖ **2 Corinthians 6:16**

"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "**I will dwell in them and walk among them.** I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

❖ **2 Corinthians 13:5**

"Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you?**—unless indeed you are disqualified."

❖ **Ephesians 2:22**

"in whom you also are being **built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**"

❖ **Ephesians 3:17-19**

"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**"

❖ **Ephesians 5:30**

"**For we are members of His body**, of His flesh and of His bones.

❖ **John 17:22,26**

(v. 22) "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:"

(v. 26) "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

❖ **Galatians 2:20**

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, **but Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

❖ **Colossians 1:27-29**

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

❖ **1 John 4:4**

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater** than he who is in the world.”

❖ **Acts 1:8**

“**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**This is the essence of Christianity: Christ in you**, the Word putting on flesh again.

**\*God is Spirit, He needs your flesh.\***

**How much real progress in 2000 years?**

- ❖ Complete Redemption so He can live in you; to live through us to reach this generation.

**IV. How does God go public today?**

**How does God:**

Visit a jail?

Heal the sick?

Win the lost?

Feed the homeless?

House a runaway?

Embrace an addict?

Win a Muslim?

Clothe the naked?

Cast out demons?

**Through His body!**

**Through you!**

❖ **1 Corinthians 12:27**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

❖ **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

**V. Supernatural Christianity (The Purpose of Power)**

❖ **Luke 3:16**

“John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”

❖ **Luke 24:49**

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem **until you are endued with power from on high.**”

❖ **Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

❖ **Acts 2:1-4**

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”