

CP - 12/24/23

John 1:14 - The Word Became Flesh

I. The Incarnation of the Word

- "The Word" = "logos"
 - Preexistent, Coexistent, Self-Existent
 - The Logos for the Greek is the reason, purpose, power behind everything.
 - The Logos for the Jew is the God's self-disclosure of His name, character, plans, and purposes.
 - God revealed himself through Theophanies, His Word, prophets, and covenants.
 - **Hebrews 1:1-2**— "*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*"
- "Became flesh"
 - Took on flesh
 - The invisible became visible
 - Became something He had never been without ceasing to be what He has always been
 - Hypostatic union: the union of divinity and humanity in one person, the Lord Jesus
 - Wrapped Himself in flesh and blood
 - Vulnerable and fragile
 - **Colossians 2:9**— "*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*"
 - These four words should leave us in awe.
- He was fully God and fully man.
 - He didn't stop being God.
 - Early heresies that taught Jesus didn't actually become a man.
 - The doctrine of the Incarnation is the bedrock of the Christian faith.

II. The Identification of the Word

- "dwelt among us"
 - Tabernacled or pitched His tent among us
 - Exodus 25:8— tabernacle
 - Exodus 33:7— tent of meeting
 - Connected to the place in which God's glory dwelt
 - **Hebrews 2:14-17; 4:15**
- The Logos became man and walked the world He created.
 - **Philippians 2:5-7**
 - Emptied Himself, not of divinity but the right to be recognized as God
 - Like the tabernacle veiled the glory of God, so did the flesh of Jesus.

III. The Exaltation of the Word

- "We have seen" ...
 - John saw it in real life...we see it in the Gospels
- "His glory"
 - Glory is the visible manifestation of God's character/nature/goodness
 - Signs (teaching and miracles)
 - Death, resurrection, exaltation

- “full of grace and truth”
 - “Full of” = indeclinable
 - “Grace” = lovingkindness/ gracious mercy
 - “Truth” = faithfulness, steadfastness, consistency
 - Covenant language
 - Jesus is the final, complete revelation of God to His people.
 - Everything in the OT has lead to this point in human history.
 - Grace and truth seen most clearly on the cross.
 - God is a covenant maker and covenant keeper.
 - New covenant in the Logos.

IV. Implications of the Incarnation

- **Salvation**
 - We sinned against God and humanity should be responsible for fixing it but we can’t
 - God fixed it by taking on humanity
 - 2 Things were accomplished through the incarnation:
 - The righteous demands of the Law fulfilled
 - The punishment for sin paid
 - **Romans 8:1-4**
 - God has spoken fully and finally. Only in Christ can man be made right.
- **Mediation**
 - **1 Timothy 2:5**
 - “Jesus shares in our humanity so that we can be joined to Him and thus stand before God. Moreover, it must be noted that to be an effective mediator, Christ must be truly God and truly man. A mediator is a go-between who can represent the interests of both parties. As God, Christ brings divine justice and mercy to bear on our relationship to our Creator, and as man, Christ brings the perfect human obedience we need to be reconciled to God.”— R. C. Sproul
 - Jesus is our great high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses.
- **Exaltation and Adoration**
 - Philippians 2:5–10
 - Christmas has to be understood in wonder.
 - “Christ, by highest heaven adored
 Christ the everlasting Lord
 Late in time behold Him come
 Offspring of the virgin’s womb
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
 Hail Incarnate Deity
 Pleased as man with man to dwell
 Jesus, our Emmanuel”
 - Charles Wesley, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” 1739