

The Incarnation of God
John 1:1-3

I. There is a God.

He is Creator – Gen. 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. “

He is eternal - Psa. 90:2

*Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

He is a God of perfect righteousness and holiness

Psa.7:11 - God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

1 Sam. 2:2 - There **is** none **holy** like the Lord: for there **is** none besides you;
there **is** no rock like our **God**.

He is a God of steadfast love and faithfulness

*Exo. 34:5-6 - ⁵The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there,
and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶The Lord passed before him and
proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and
abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,*

Definition of God: “God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite*, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.” (New City Catechism)

**infinite* means there is no end, limitless

II. He became a man – for the following reasons

- A. He became a man to reveal the invisible God
- B. He became a man so he could become the substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of those who believe in him.
- C. He became a man so he could save his people from their sins and take them to be with him forever. “I will be their God and they will be my people.”

John 1:1-3, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Meaning of Incarnation:

The meaning is based on the Latin word – “carno” meaning “flesh.” So when we say that we believe in the incarnation, what we mean is that we believe that God came to earth in human flesh in the person of Jesus. His flesh, his body, was just as real and human as our bodies. He was 100% human (but he did not cease being 100% God at the same time). He took upon himself our humanity, but did not in the least lose his deity. This is mystery and it is a miracle, but this is what is so astounding about the incarnation. There is nothing impossible with God.

How did the incarnation happen? See Luke 1:35

⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

How we know Jesus was fully a man?

Born a normal human birth, Ate, drank, sweated, got tired, got sleepy,

How we know Jesus was fully God?

Born of a virgin, works of power, death and R’n, Ascension, Reign, Return

Philippians 2:5-8 is very helpful in laying out a clear description of both Christ’s divine and his human nature. (The key word here is *form* (ESV, KJV, NIV), or *nature* (NIV))

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Col 2:9 - ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Here are some things that the Incarnation means for us:

1. All that we need to know about God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

2. God understands what it's like to be a human being because in Jesus he became a man, grew up in a small town in a family, worked as a carpenter, and was subject to all the temptations and stresses that humans commonly experience. We cannot say to God, "You don't understand my situation."
3. Jesus as the fully human man, lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to the Law of God so that his perfect righteousness can now be credited to all those who trust in him as their Savior. If we're dressed in Jesus' righteousness, God no more sees our sin.
4. Jesus as the perfect, sinless sacrifice, offered himself on the cross as the substitute in our place, bearing the white-hot wrath of God that we was directed at us for our sins. He absorbed in his body and soul the punishment of separation from God and hell that we deserve. The innocent one was offered up for the guilty ones (see Romans 3:21-26). Those who believe in Jesus are now forgiven people, cleansed completely by the shed blood of Jesus.
5. Because God raised his Son from the dead, we are now responsible to respond to God's action in human history by repenting of our sin and placing our faith in Jesus Christ. (see Acts 17:30-31)
6. Because Jesus rose from the dead and is a living Savior, seated at the right of God, and sends his Holy Spirit into the hearts of his people, we can experience spiritual life and renewal. The Lord can begin to change us from the inside out. Old destructive habits and addictions can begin to fall off as we renew our minds in the Word of God and turn our lives over to Him to be used according to his eternal plan and purpose. No matter our past, God can save us and make us a new person in Christ. He will be with us and help us. There is hope, there is joy for us. God calls us to honor him by our lives. He will give us meaningful service in this world. We have the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the fellowship of God's people in the church as believers gather together.

Thankfulness and praise now grace our lives, for God has done great things beyond what we thought or imagined. Look to him, and travel together with God's people as we march toward the heavenly city where Jesus is the Light.

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