

Questions

1. Based on this text (and its implications) how could we answer the person who says, "I would believe God if I could see him"? "I think Jesus was just a good man/wise teacher"?
2. Do you struggle more to appreciate the all-powerful divinity of God's Son, or his humble humanity? How have these verses helped you?
3. Read Hebrews 4:15-16. This passage speaks to another benefit we receive because "the word became flesh". What is it (what are the reasons it came about)? Why is this such good news for us?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Both apply the spiritual reality that Christians are "a temple of the Holy Spirit" and "the temple of the living God". What are the applications? How does Paul motivate obedience in light of the spiritual reality? How is that motivating?
5. Read Ephesians 2:19-22 (emph. vv.21-22) and 1 Peter 2:4-5. God dwelling with His people is not just individual, but also collective. In what ways could this truth change the way you pursue life with other believers?
6. Read John 2:13-22. How does this further reveal the truth that Jesus is the visible embodiment of God tabernacling amongst his people? Further, how does the resurrection of the "temple" strength faith in the Scriptures and who Jesus is and what He accomplished in his life and death?
7. Read Revelation 21:2-4. How can this passage—with its vision in verse 3—give you strength for today amidst the pain, anxiety, struggle with sin, etc.?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14-18

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

December 4, 2022

John gives two confessions you *must* make if you are to savingly believe in Jesus.

1. Jesus—the Word—Gloriously Became Flesh and Dwelt Amongst Us. (v.14ab)

"We, ...confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man,..." – The Chalcedonian Creed, a.d. 451

Dwelt literally translates as, "pitched his tent" or "tabernacled".

God took the initiative and commanded His people to build Him the tabernacle, so that He may dwell in their midst (Ex. 25:8). And God's presence through His Shchina glory, veiled in a cloud, dwelt first in the tabernacle, and later in the temple (Ex. 40:34; 1 Kgs. 8:10). This veiled presence of God foreshadowed what would come.

Confessing Jesus came in the flesh and is God amongst His people is a non-negotiable truth. (1 John 4:2-3)

We who are in Christ are "God's temple (the temple of the living God) and that God's Spirit dwells in us". (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16)

And it's not just *individually*, but also *collectively*. Peter calls us, "living stones...being built up together as a spiritual house" (1 Pet. 2:5).

God will dwell—for evermore—with His People. (Rev. 21:2-4)

2. Jesus Is the Glorious Only Son of God, Full of Grace and Truth, Who Makes Known the Father. (vv.14b-18)

"Only" captures the uniqueness of Jesus's sonship.

God's glory is shown to us in Christ because He is perfectly, "full of grace and truth."

Taken in combination ("Grace and truth"), John means to reflect the two primary Hebrew terms most often used in the OT, to characterize God, *hesed* and *emet*.

John means for us to recall Moses's engagement with God in Exodus 33 (vv.18-20) and 34 (v.6).

"The LORD passed before Moses and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in *steadfast love (hesed)* and *faithfulness (emet)*...'.
- Ex. 34:6

Hesed is often translated, "steadfast love", "covenant love", "faithful love", or "lovingkindness". And *emet* is often translated, "faithfulness", "truth", or "reliability".

To savingly believe in Jesus, you must believe that the man Jesus was the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, full of grace and truth. (1 John 4:15)