

The Word Became Flesh John 1:14-18

“As I wrote my stories of Japanese Christians, I found myself drawn more and more to children of failed faith. They had lived a double life, putting up a façade, never to reveal their true selves, living out their faith in secret. In that life-long struggle, I saw my own self. I, too, operate that way, hiding my deepest secrets; secrets that I dare not disclose and will carry beyond the grave.”

Shasaku Endo

John is singing at the beginning of his gospel that God stepped into our darkness and came to lead us out of sin and darkness and hidden shame. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

I. God Stooped and God Stayed. John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us...”

John 1:14

“By this you know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.”

1 John 4:2-3

“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.” 2 John 7

You and I ought to have resolved in our mind to understand the infinite step down that God made when He came as the Son of God to become one of us ... lest we think that I am too far gone, too messed up, too broken to be loved, or forgiven, or accepted by God.

- **God Stooped**

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and the people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.” John 3:19

“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” John 6:33

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:38

“I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” John 16:28

We must understand that when Jesus came in flesh it would be so that we would never be orphaned again.

- **God Stayed**

“If you walk in my commandments and do them, then I will make my dwelling among you and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you will be my people.” Leviticus 26:3,11-12

“My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd... My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people!” Ezekiel 37:24-27

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst declares the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.” Zechariah 2:10

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would have I told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14:1-3

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.” John 14:18

II. He is Full of Grace and Full of Truth. John 1:14

“... and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

The Son reveals that God the Father is incomparably glorious.

The Father is far more gracious than we ever could imagine and He is far more trustworthy and true than anyone we have ever known.

“And Jesus cried out and said, ‘Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.’” John 12:44-46

“Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ... Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.’” John 14:8-11

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see your glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them, your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I

in them.”

John 17:24-28

“Jesus was all grace. He welcomed sinners and tax collectors and ate with them. He had compassion on the crowds when they were hungry and far from home. He welcomed the little children to come and sit on his lap

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gentler and kinder than any department store Santa. He healed the lepers, the lame, and the blind. He saved the criminal on the cross, who, in his dying breath, confessed that the dying man next to him was truly the Son of God.” Kevin DeYoung

“And Jesus was all truth. He condemned many of the religious leaders of his day for being liars and hypocrites. He talked about hell more than he talked about heaven. He called all those who would be his disciples to take up their cross daily and follow him. He prophesied judgment on Jerusalem for their unrepentant hearts. He obeyed the law, set standards, and demanded everything from his followers, even their very lives.” Kevin DeYoung

This is grace! To always be told the truth! To not be left in the dark and to not be left without hope and to not be left in our sin – and to be shown the way to God through faith in Him – that is truth and that grace in its fullness.

III. Grace. Grace. And more Grace. John 1:15-18

“For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:16-17

Only because Jesus has won the victory over sin and death can He give us all the grace we need to stand before God forgiven and righteous and all the grace to stay before God righteous and forgiven.

“We do not receive all of Christ’s “fullness” (plērōma), but draw “grace and truth” from it as from a boundless supply. The accompanying words, “and grace upon grace,” bear this out.”

J. Ramsey Michaels

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God...” Romans 8:26-27

“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Romans 8:34-35

This is the One who pays with His blood, stays in the flesh, and prays and provides everything that we need to bring us safely out of the shadows of shame and into sonship and his and our eternal home!