

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
² He was in the beginning with God. NKJV

John 1:14 *And 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.* NKJV

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Introduction:

- The story of Christmas is not just to give us comprehension it is to bring us to worship. The wise men didn't come to Bethlehem to comprehend how good they were at following the stars they came to worship the King that had been revealed to them! The Christmas accounts of Matthew and Luke are meant to cause us to marvel (be astonished and wonder) at the fact of God becoming a man. Even angels long to look into these things according to 1 Peter 1:12
- We have reduced them to mere stories. "We are often guilty of being more in love with the *idea* of Christ than with Jesus Himself. How can we relate to Jesus in authenticity if we have little regard for the story of His life - His past, His family, His friends, where He went and what He did?" Stephen Venable.
- The words, God became flesh, simply means that God became a man, a human. But the ramifications of God becoming man is huge to the believer and to all who need redemption. Jesus is-that God-man. (fully God and fully man).
- We will look at three things today: God became man, What does Jesus Humanity Show us, Why does it matter?
- Have you ever thought this thought? That right now within the Trinity there is human body!
- How awesome is the plan of God that He would provide a God-man sitting on the throne of all government! A man in the midst of God! 1 Timothy 3:16 "*Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body.*" NLT

I. God Became a Man

A. The Son of God called himself the Son of Man

1. The phrase Son of Man is used invariably by Jesus himself of himself. No one else ever addresses him by that title. This is Jesus own self-declaration. The phrase is used over 82 times.
2. This is a plain declaration by the Son of God that He is the Son of Man.

B. The phrase Son of Man basically means "Man". Not male but man, as in human. God who had appeared as a pillar of fire, pillar of cloud, top of Jacobs ladder, etc. Now himself, says, "I am here as a man!"

1. Matthew 1:23 *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."* NKJV This passage comes from Isaiah 9:6-ff
2. Isaiah 9:7 *The zeal of the Lord (Yahweh) of hosts will perform this.* NKJV Mary was

'overshadowed by HS.

- C. How awesome is it that this One could hold all of who God is, and at the same time hold all of what man is in perfect harmony and love!
1. It was Jesus who referred to himself as the Son of Man found in Daniel 7:13-14*. He is the same Son of Man that John sees in Revelation 1:13 and Revelation 14:14.
 2. As the Son of Man He had authority to forgive sin. Luke 5:24; Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:10.

II. What does the Humanity of Jesus Show Us?

- A. In Him all humanity is represented. 1 Corinthians 15:22,45,47; Romans 5:14
1. He is the model of genuine humanity. He represents all peoples, of all colors, of all nations because He is a man. Jesus has been presented to cultures as blonde hair caucasian, black skinned African, or with beautiful oriental eyes--He belongs to all people of the whole human race.
 2. Jesus stands for the original pattern for human existence. Where the first Adam failed the last Adam has overcome. He became a life-giving spirit! Praise God!
- B. In Him is real humanity.
1. 1 John 1:1 *We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.* NLT This is another way of saying the Word became flesh.
 2. Paul teaches this too: Romans 1:3 "*descended from David according to the flesh.*" Hebrews 5:7 "*refers to the days of His flesh*" 1 Timothy 3:16 "*Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh.*" All of these scriptures testify of His human nature. In the OT as the Angel of the Lord, He is other than human. "*... He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*" (Isaiah 53:2, NKJV). For many came denying that he came in the flesh. John calls this the spirit of the anti-christ.
 3. Romans 8:3 *God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have.* NLT It did not say he sent Him in a sinful body. It implies He had a different body while with the Father.
 4. If Christ had not come in the flesh He could not have known the death on the cross. If He had come like God they could not kill...He would not die.
- C. He was totally man.
1. Hebrews 2:14 *Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil* NLT
 2. He was born of a woman. Galatians 4:4, he grew like all humans--Luke 2:52. He ate, slept, became thirsty, worked as a carpenter, prayed and cared for his mother. He

was tempted. He grew in wisdom. From birth to death Jesus was a total man.

D. He was perfect

1. He was the perfection of manhood.
 - a) He walked humbly which is at the heart of genuine humanity. Micah 6:8 *"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"* NKJV
 - b) Walking humbly with God lies at the very heart of human existence. It is what the first Adam did with God in the cool of the day.
2. He 'humbled himself' is a most profound act of human existence. He humbled himself to a cross. He was brought to perfection through obedience to death on a cross. He grew to this place in maturity. There was no sin for him to grow out of! He grew in maturity.
3. **The NT does not show Jesus as sinless because He was God. It shows him as sinless because He overcame every temptation.**
4. When He was baptized it was not because He had sinned and needed to repent. He was baptized because He was choosing to identify himself with sinful humanity who is in need of repentance.

E. He was anointed. The word Christ means "Anointed One."

1. Because Jesus was totally man He had to have the anointing to minister in power. Acts 10:38 Speaks of how *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and that He went about doing good healing all those who were sick and oppressed of the devil.* John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit remain on Jesus when He was baptized.
2. Jesus emptied himself to become a man and gives us the ultimate example of what it means to trust in the Holy Spirit as a man should.
3. Jesus preaching, healing, delivering etc. were all a result of this spiritual anointing. Jesus the man was anointed with the Spirit of God.
4. His ministry flowed out of the Holy Spirit. Our Brother, Jesus ministered out of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
5. It was His Spirit anointed humanity and the power resting on that humanity that was behind his ministry of word and deed.

III. Why is this Important?

A. Jesus Reveals the Nature of Man. What man is and should be when freed from his sin.

1. As the Son of Man Jesus reveals the nature of man. In Him is the total definition of manhood.
2. Jesus is the fulfillment of man's original nature: walking in holiness and righteousness, love and mercy, truth and faithfulness. Jesus is the perfect picture of what a man who has been redeemed should look like! Jesus did not need redemption we did!

3. The humanity of Jesus makes us all the more aware of our sinfulness or our inhumanity. We think of some criminals and we sometimes use the words of “how inhumane” that was. But when we look at our own lives in comparison with the man Jesus we can only say, “I am so inhumane!” Ie. Peter on the boat full of fish, “Leave me for I am a sinful man” Luke 1:8
 4. In the presence of Jesus we never have to ask again, “What is it like to be truly human?” For Christ is the Son of Man.
- B. All of this is important because, Jesus, the Son of Man makes salvation possible.
1. To be a true mediator He must be both man and God/human and divine.
 2. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all...* NKJV Ie. *The old man and the birds freezing in the snow. He tried to shoo them into the house but they would not come. He thought, “If only I could become a bird then they would follow me into where it is warm.*
 3. Only one who shares our humanity is able to offer a sufficient sacrifice.
 4. Hebrews 2:17 *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. NLT*
 5. *Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.* Romans 5:19
Message
- C. Jesus life is an example for all men.
1. Seeing Jesus as a man gives us the example of what a true disciple of Christ should be/live like.
 2. John 13:15 Jesus washes the feet of His disciple and He says to them, “*I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you.*” It is a wondrous picture of humility and love.
 3. The entire drama of the incarnation from heaven to a manger to a cross not only brings about our salvation but it also gives us the example of the way true believers are to live. Jesus by becoming a man is an example for all men to follow.

Conclusion:

- It is an awesomely, wondrous, mystery that God would become man and be born of a virgin.
 - It is awesomely wondrous that God, The Son of Man would come to us that we could see God revealed in a man. That we could see in Jesus what it means to be a real person.
 - It is awesomely wondrous that the Son of Man would come to die that we might live.
- Invitation