

## **John 1:14-18**

### **I. The Wonder of Christmas: The Word Became Flesh (v. 14)**

#### **A. "Word" (logos in Greek)**

##### **1. The eternal creator God (v. 1-3)**

- existed in the beginning
- with God
- was God
- all things created through him

##### **2. The universe is so vast and complicated; imagine the vastness of the being who brought it into existence**

#### **B. "Flesh" (sarx in Greek)**

##### **1. Flesh = flesh and blood, skin, bone, muscle, fat, hair, nails**

"Incarnation": "carne" = meat/flesh

##### **2. The word takes on flesh and becomes like every other child: needy, dependent, vulnerable**

##### **3. Analogy: When dad comes home from work and gets down on the floor with the kids to play with them. In Jesus, God has stooped down and gotten on our level—vulnerable relatable.**

#### **C. "And made his dwelling among us"**

##### **1. Lit: "pitched his tent" in our campground**

##### **2. Analogy: imagine if the President of United States moved into the house next door to you and became a neighbor just like any other neighbor.**

### **II. Implication 1: The unexplainable riddle of God has been explained (v. 18)**

#### **A. "No one has ever seen God."**

##### **1. God is the greatest riddle/mystery of all. Philosophers have spent their lives trying to answer the questions about God**

#### **B. "The One and Only has made him known"**

##### **1. Jesus has shown us exactly what God is like**

##### **2. As the "only begotten Son" he is the spitting image of his father**

Hb 1:3: he is the exact representation of his being

Jesus: "If you've seen me you've seen the father"

##### **3. So if you want to know what God is like, just look at the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish carpenter and you will know.**

### **II. Implication 2: The un-seeable glory of God has now been seen (v. 14)**

#### **A. Glory = God's magnificence, beauty, perfection, and holiness**

##### **1. We long for God's glory. We were made for God's glory**

##### **2. We can't handle God's glory because of our sin**

##### **3. Moses wanted to see God's glory and God could only show him a glimpse of his backside (Ex 33:18ff)**

#### **B. John's claim is that they had now seen God's glory face to face in the face of Jesus Christ (see 2 Cor 4:6)**

- III. This glorious God revealed in Jesus is full of grace and truth (v. 14-17)
- A. When Christ came, he could have come as judge, but instead he came with tremendous grace (“grace upon grace”)
  - B. When Christ came, he brought truth: he would always tell it like it is
  - C. The mingling of grace and truth
    - 1. His life: he always displayed grace and truth
    - 2. His death: the cross is the ultimate display of grace and truth
      - a. God remained truthful/faithful to his own holiness and justice which required that sin be dealt with
      - b. God remained grace-ful by having Jesus die in our place
      - c. Because of that, the cross is Jesus greatest hour of glory

IV. Conclusion

What’s your view of God? When we think about what God is like, we should consider the Jewish carpenter, Jesus, who gave his life away for the life of the world

**Discussion Questions**

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?
2. When you consider the idea that Jesus perfectly explains God to us, where might your own views of God differ from the picture of Jesus we get in the gospels?
3. Where does thinking about the fact that God is like Jesus encourage or comfort you? Where does it challenge or convict you?
4. What relevance does John’s statement, “we have seen his glory,” have for us, who weren’t eyewitnesses of Jesus? In what ways can we experience God’s glory through Jesus?
5. As you consider Jesus’ model of getting down and dirty and involved in our actual world to minister to us, where might God be challenging you to get more closely involved in a situation or person’s life in order to “embody” Christ’s love, grace and truth?