

Wednesday Night Study on the Great Commission

October 8, 2025 – The Incarnation of Jesus

The Incarnation is the Christian doctrine that the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, took on human flesh and became fully God and fully man, uniting both natures in one person, Jesus of Nazareth. This divine act of God coming into humanity, referred to as "the Word became flesh," served to reconcile humanity to God, provide a path to salvation from sin, and allow for a deeper relationship between God and his creation.

Core aspects of the Incarnation:

- **God and Man United:**

Jesus is believed to be both fully divine and fully human, with his divine and human natures permanently united in his one person.

- **A Divine Mystery:**

The Incarnation is described as a profound and often unfathomable mystery, an "amazing and almost unfathomable mystery" of God choosing to become human out of love for humanity.

- **Origin:**

The Incarnation occurred through the Holy Spirit's power, with the Son of God conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

- **Purpose for Humanity:**

- **Salvation:** The Incarnation was God's method for saving humanity from sin by allowing Jesus, as both God and man, to be a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

- **Reconciliation:** Jesus's act of becoming human repaired the alienated relationship between God and humanity that had been broken by sin.
- **Imparting the Divine Nature:** Through the Incarnation, humans are enabled to "partake in the divine nature" and enter into a full relationship with God.

Biblical Basis:

- **Gospel of John:**

The concept is encapsulated in the opening verses: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Philippians:**

Philippians 2:6-8 explains that Jesus, though divine, "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men".

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own
advantage;*

*⁷rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Significance:

The Incarnation is considered a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith, forming the basis for Christian belief in the Trinity and establishing the means for humans to have a relationship with God. It is the event of God dwelling among his creation in the person of Christ.