DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18



Part 12: The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** John's prologue, the first 18 verses, is the most powerful, poignant, theological treatise that's ever been written to explain who God is. Because there is so much in this text, we cannot do it right unless we go slowly enough to digest and consume every nuance of these words. So, in this week's message, we are going to talk about the Word made flesh. The difference between preaching and teaching is not volume. Teaching provides a lot of explanation to say what something means. Preaching moves toward application, asking the question, "so what now?" Therefore, you need to stay tuned for the entire message because not only are you going to learn about the Word, but you're going to glean some insight and application that could change your life and give you hope like never before. **KEY POINTS** 1. Mysteries In This Scripture Passage **The Mystery of Incarnation.** The first of the mysteries is one of incarnation. "The Word became flesh." That's the description of incarnation that God became flesh. However, it's interesting that the word for "became" is used in the agrist tense, to describe becoming. In the Greek language, the agrist tense describes a past event that happened in time. It hadn't happened before, but then it did happen. We know from the context that it happened through Jesus. The logos became flesh at a point in time, something that had never been done before. In the Old Testament, God's Spirit would come upon men, but never had God become flesh until now. **The Mystery of Identification.** There's something very powerful about tangibly touching and feeling, that connection with what God has made and where Jesus had walked. What I'm trying to tell you here is this identification is very, very powerful. God wants you to be able to have a tangible sense of the presence of God in your life. And that's why Jesus came; He came for 33 and a half years and lived on this planet, the Bible tells us, so men could see what God was like, and to have a physical encounter. The Mystery of Insight. There is also the "mystery of insight." John writes, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son of God." We have seen His Glory. This phrase "have seen" means to see physically, and also to have spiritual perception. Do you know the difference? You can see something with your eyes physically, but to have spiritual perception is to really see something altogether different. When you have an encounter with Christ, God will give you insight into His Word, through the power of His Holy Spirit. You will be able to see things and understand things you didn't see before. That's the mystery of insight.

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The Mystery of Inclusion. John was overcome that he had been **NOTES** included to know Christ, to follow Christ, to serve Christ. So what keeps you from being included? Our own personal sin and being consumed with ourselves. And the moment you turn from your sin and yourself and you look at the Savior, you understand how powerful it is that you, too, have been included. 2. Powerful Take-Away Principles I Am Incredibly Loved. There are many of us that fight with that sense of being loved and that's why we work really hard trying to get someone's approval, someone's applause, someone's acceptance because we want to feel loved. The Prince of Glory, God himself loves you and me so much that He left Heaven's glory and worship and took on human flesh to go to the cross to shed His blood, and came alive again from the grave because He loves you and wants to know you. You are incredibly loved. God Desires to Have a Relationship with Me. The reason why He loves us is because He wants to know us and He has put inside of us a desire to want to know Him. The greatest fulfillment in your life will come in knowing Christ. It will not come because you have been useful in service or that He used you to do this or that. Your greatest fulfillment in your life will come because you have spent time alone with Him. If your cup is half full or half empty, however you look at it, the reason it feels like it's not to the brim is because you've been filling it with the wrong thing. What will take you over the top is a focus on wanting to know Him. The Invitation to Encounter God is Limited Time Offer. Don't think for a moment that you can come to God any time you want. You can't. It doesn't happen like that. There is a window in your life when there is an open crack in the window or maybe in the door of your heart. God will give you hints through life and it's His invitation to say, "I want to know you." When you hear the knock of the Spirit's knuckles on the door of your heart and you say, "No, not yet. Later. I need to think about it." The longer you go closing the door or refusing the answer, the harder it will be for you to hear Him knock. I Can See His Glory In My Life. We can see His glory in our lives in two different ways. First, we can look at the big things that are really small. Take breathing for instance. That's a big thing that we don't even think about, and it comes only by the glory of God. We can also look at the little things that are really big. Our God is a Creator and He cares about every little detail of your life. He knows how to orchestrate things at just the right time to grab hold of your heart.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

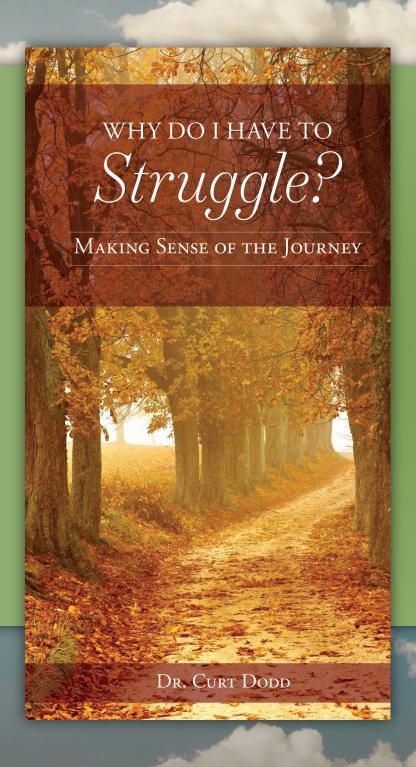
1.	Do you believe God loves you unconditionally, or do you struggle with trying to earn
	His love and approval?

2. What are some examples of big things in your life that might seem small or easy to take for granted?

3.	Do you make time to talk to God about all the small details of your life? Do you believe He truly cares about those details and wants you to tell Him about them?

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WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



God is with us when we are struggling the most.

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