

Today I'm going to give you a statement that is powerful enough to die for...can you imagine
Dukes of Hazard Best TV Show of all time | Corey Feldman is the best musician of all time

- There is a sentence that if someone wanted you to deny it...take life | **INCARNATION**
The eternal Son of God took on human nature and became man without ceasing to be God
If you don't believe that...you're not a Christian...it's worth dying for to keep from denying
Polycarp (AD 69–155) | Disciple John | Bishop Smyrna (Turkey) | 86 Arrested 155 preaching
- Roman Proconsul – Giant Stadium – Sympathetic to his age...gave him a choice
Swear by the genuine Caesar and renounce Christ or be put to death
"Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I
blaspheme my King and my Savior?" - Beasts...bring it on – Fire...let's so it
'governor's fire burns for only a moment, whereas the fire of eternal judgment lasts forever'
Tied to post – Lit on fire...fire would not burn him – Executioner stab him...extinguished fire
The eternal Son of God took on human nature and became man without ceasing to be God
Polycarp believed this so strongly...that he was willing to die...who taught him? Apostle John
Took care of Mary – Prominent figure in Jerusalem – Brothers Martyrdom...Ephesus (Asia M)
- Brought to Rome...boiled in oil...exiled to Island of Patmos...Revelation...wrote words
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which
we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made
manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the
Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his
Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
- 'Most beloved disciple' – 5 books bible – Cross - Walked / Talked / Sang / Ate / Slept
John is making a statement...I am a testimony to the Life – Death – Burial – Ascension
He is a testimony – Courtroom...I saw it Judge...with my own eyes...I was there
He doesn't start with abstract theology or philosophical argument
- Starts **what he heard, what he saw, what he looked upon, what he touched**
- I'm not giving you rumors. I'm not passing along religious speculation...real person
Christianity is not built on mystical feelings or invented stories - historical reality
The eternal Son of God stepped into human history, was seen by human eyes
touched by human hands, and proclaimed for our salvation.
Big Idea – The incarnation paves the way to everlasting life

What does the incarnation of Christ reveal about God's saving purpose? **3 things produces**

1. Christ revealed produces: Reality that is founded (1)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which
we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life

John's addressing house churches in Ephesus | They have a problem – Similar to ours

- Gnosticism – Greatest threats – **COSMIC DUALISM** | Spiritual / Physical
 - All matter evil & All spirit good | Pure spiritual realm (God) – Flawed Material (Man)
- Anything done in the body has no meaning because real life exists in the spiritual realm only
Jesus could not be God because a deity would never take the form of a material man
John is telling all the Gnostics, 'no' – I have seen God...looked upon Him...touched His hands
A reality that's founded. Give you five reasons the incarnation is profoundly important

a. The incarnation: Reveals God to us - Jesus makes the invisible God known

- When Jesus speaks, serves, loves, rebukes sin, compassion, He is revealing the Father
Jn 1:14 – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" | Col. 1:15 'The Image of the Invisible God'
I want to know what God is like – Read the Gospels and you will know what God is like

b. The incarnation: Was necessary for our salvation – To save sinners...Had to become us

- Humanity – True human representative had to take the place where Adam failed
- Deity - Fully God bear full weight of divine wrath & provide a sacrifice of infinite worth
Phil. 2:8 being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...cross

c. The incarnation: Allows Christ to sympathize with us – Doesn't save from a distance

- He entered the weakness, suffering, temptation, and sorrow of human life...did not sin
- He knows what it is to be weary, rejected, grieved, and afflicted...God Gets You

Heb. 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but
one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin

d. The incarnation: Is the foundation of Christ's priestly ministry – Merciful & Faithful HP

- We need an intercessor – Someone who stands between the Father and Man – Priest
- He can stand between God and man because He belongs fully to both—God and man
Romans 8:34 - Jesus Christ...who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

e. The incarnation: Secures the defeat of sin, death, and Satan – Declaration of war

- Christ entered the battlefield of human existence in order to conquer our enemies
- He took on flesh so He could die, by dying and rising He crushed death and the devil

1 Jn. 3:8 - The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil

Incarnation is important...through it Jesus reveals God, represents sinners, obeys in our place,
dies for our sins, sympathizes with our weakness, and secures our salvation as the God-man

The Parable of the King and the Maiden (Søren Kierkegaard)

Path of Coercion (Command) | Path of Elevation (Love stuff) | Decision to Descend

Takeaway – Remember the Principle of Presence and Provision

2. Christ revealed produces: Proclamation that is formative (2-3)

²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal
life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard
we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is
with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ

Eternal life has been revealed in Jesus Christ | receive Him - proclaim Him - enjoy fellowship
John saying...because we have seen Jesus...we testify to it and proclaim it...keep it to selves

Smallpox killed 300 Million 20th century alone – By 1980 Eradicated – 1796 Edward Jenner

- Not locked away - **The value of the cure demands that it be shared** – Sitting cure death

John writes as someone who has discovered something infinitely greater...death...eternal

a. Jesus' Life Is Revealed - the life was made manifest,

- John emphasizes that eternal life is not merely something Jesus gives—it is who Jesus is
Jesus did not begin Bethlehem. He eternally existed w/ Father before coming into the world
- Invisible God...visible through Son. Eternal entered time. Creator stepped into creation
Imagine there were **MOLE PEOPLE**...how would you describe the sun? Would have to see it
"Made manifest" means to be revealed openly – What was hidden is now revealed in Christ

b. Jesus' Life IS Declared - and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal
life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and
heard we proclaim also to you – **Three things from this text: Know it – Live it – Tell it**

- **Know it** - Before we can follow Christ faithfully, must know who He is/what has done
 - Knowing His identity as the eternal Son of God who became flesh
 - Knowing His perfect obedience to the Father
 - Knowing His sacrificial death for our sins
 - Knowing His victorious resurrection
 - Knowing His present reign and promised return

- **Live it** - Christian life is more than believing facts about Jesus—it is becoming like Him
 - Loving - Serving – Forgiving – Obeying – Trusting – Living w/holiness, humility, compassion
- **Tell it** - The life-changing message of Jesus was never meant to be kept to ourselves
 - Share gospel clearly – Speak of what Christ done in life – Make disciples

The more we know Jesus, become like Him, we cannot help but tell others about Him

- c. **Jesus' Life Produces Fellowship** "So that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

- *koinonia* = sharing, partnership, communion, and intimate relationship
- Because of Christ we have fellowship with God...fellowship w/ God's people

The church is not merely a gathering of religious people - It is a family united by Christ

Bicycle tire – The spokes get closer together the closer they get to the hub | Where are you?

Takeaway - Vertical relationship creates horizontal fellowships

- **Receive** the Life that God has revealed in Christ
- **Report** the Life by faithfully proclaiming the gospel
- **Rejoice** in the fellowship Christ has purchased with His blood
- 3. **Christ revealed produces: Joy that is full (4)** biblical concept less understood than 'joy'

⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. | What things? Incarnation!

Webster's – The emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires. – Radically thoroughly inaccurate understanding Authentic Christianity

Martin Lloyd-Jones (Life in Christ – Studies in 1 John)

Joy is something very deep and profound, something that affects the whole and entire personality. In other words it comes to this; there is only one thing that can give true joy and that is contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies my mind; He satisfies my emotions; He satisfies my every desire. He and His great salvation include the whole personality and nothing less, and in Him I am complete. Joy, in other words, is the response and the reaction of the soul to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. **Complete Joy Is Rooted in God's Truth** - And we are writing these things
 - John points written Word. Christianity is built on divine revelation, not human opinion
 - Joy begins when we know the truth about God, ourselves, sin, salvation, and eternal life

People often look for joy by changing their circumstances | If only I...If only I didn't
Joy is God changing our perspective even if He does not change our circumstances
Your feelings lie to you...piolet and the fog...trust his feelings or the instruments
- b. **Complete Joy Is Received as God's Gift** - "...so that our joy..."
 - John does not simply say "the joy." He says "our joy" – Greatest gifts to children
 - Produced by Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), sustained by God's presence (Psalm 16:11), and strengthened through His Word (Jeremiah 15:16)
 - Biblical joy is not pretending everything is fine – The 'Everything is Fine' Meme
Confidence God is sovereign, faithful, working for our good regardless circumstances
- c. **Complete Joy Is the Goal of God's Word** - "...may be complete."
 - Complete = full, mature, or brought to its intended fullness | Incarnation...full/mature
 - God never intended believers to live defeated, joyless Christian lives
 - His desire is people enjoy assurance, peace, hope, and confidence come knowing Him

Complete joy does not mean a life without sorrow

- Jesus Himself was called "a man of sorrows," yet He also possessed perfect joy
- Our joy becomes fuller as we grow in faith, obey God's Word, and trust His promises
- My well is dry...you're at the wrong well!

Takeaway – Choose God's Joy | Receive God's Joy – Reflect God's Joy

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