



THE GOSPEL: JESUS.

“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, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY...”

JOHN 1:1, 14

BIG IDEA:

Jesus, eternally God, became man for his joy and our good.

GOSPEL STATEMENT

The one and only God, our Righteous King, created us in His image and for His glory, to love, know, and represent Him. We made a choice, however, to violate God's righteousness with our sin and thus we are unable to love, know, and represent Him on our own. Our sin and lack of righteousness deserves a punishment, the anger and judgment of God. **But because we cannot bear this punishment on our own, and because of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, who was both fully human and fully God,** to live a perfectly righteous life and to die on a cross that He might save us from the punishment that our sin deserves. After three days, Jesus was raised from the dead, showing that God the Father had accepted the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus, on behalf of His people. And now, God calls us to trust in Jesus—to have faith in the sufficiency of His work on the cross and to repent, changing our minds about the sufficiency of our old way of living. In trusting Jesus to save us, we are reconciled to God. This means that we are forgiven of our sin, credited with Christ's righteousness, adopted in as sons and daughters, and given new and eternal life. In being reconciled to God, we now have relationship with Him. This relationship means that we have received the presence of God's Spirit in our lives, thus producing the fruit of the gospel and enabling us to live as kingdom citizens who love, know, and represent God as we were created to do.

THE GOSPEL: God. Humanity. **Jesus.** Response.

Athanasian Creed (5th Century)

“... it is necessary to everlasting salvation that [a person] believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of substance of his mother, born in the world...”¹

THE ONLY WAY FOR GOOD NEWS TO EXIST:

- Jesus Christ, God, became man, and sacrificed himself on my behalf.

WHO IS JESUS (JOHN 1):

1. Jesus, the Word, is God (vv. 1-5)

- *In the beginning* = Jesus is eternal
- *The Word was with God* = Jesus is distinct from the Father
- *The Word was God* = Jesus is God

→ Jesus, God, is the source of physical and spiritual life and light.

Q: Why is it important that Jesus is fully God?

A: Because Jesus is fully God, sharing the same perfection as the Father, he is able to defeat death and save us from our sin.

2. Jesus, God, became a man (vv. 14-18)

- *The Word became flesh* = Jesus shared in human frailty and vulnerability

¹ “Athanasian Creed.” *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, www.ccel.org/creeds/athanasian.creed.html.

- *The Word dwelt among us* = Jesus pitched his tent in the world
- *We have seen his glory* = In Jesus, we see God

“*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.* This statement is one of the most significant and memorable ever penned. Its implications are limitless. It has provided the church over the centuries with a key to understanding the mystery of Jesus Christ. It represents the heart and climax of the gospel.”² – Bruce Milne

Q: Why is it important that Jesus is fully human?

A: Because Jesus is fully human, he is able to rightly represent us before the Father.

3. Jesus, Savior, gives people the right to become children of God (vv. 9-13)

- *His own people did not receive him* = The people continued in active rebellion
- *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name* = Faith
- *... born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God* = Salvation is a miraculous gift

→ Faith “is an acceptance of Jesus and of what he claims to be and a dedication of one’s life to him.”³

Q: What must I do to be a child of God?

A: Receive Jesus by believing in him.

WHO AM I IN LIGHT OF THE GOD?

1. I am small (God)
2. I am guilty (Humanity)
3. I am loved (Jesus)
4. I will follow (Response)

² Milne, Bruce. *The Message of John: Here Is Your King!: With Study Guide*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993. Print. The Bible Speaks Today.

³ R. Brown, 1, p. 513. *The Gospel According to John I-XII*. Anchor Bible, 1966.