

“Lower Thirds” Material

12/6/20

Pastor Ben Cross

“But Daddy, I need God to have skin on!”

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

“was the Word” - John affirms the Word’s eternal existence.

“and the Word was with God” - John affirms the Word’s eternal face-to-face relationship with God.

“and the Word was with (the) God” - John affirms the eternal distinction between “the Word” and “the God.”

“and the Word was God” - John affirms the Word’s eternal Deity. (See the technical notes on **John 1:1**)

John 1:2-3 – The Word created everything. (**Genesis 1:1**)

Psalm 33:6 *By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made.*

Psalm 148:5 *Yahweh commanded and they were created.*

Psalm 29 personifies “the voice” of Yahweh.

Isaiah 55:11 *Yahweh’s word will accomplish its purpose and not return to him void.*

John 1:14 *And the Word (eternal Yahweh) became flesh and dwelt among us.*

The eternal Word is none other than Jesus Christ!

The eternal Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. He took on a human nature and a human body in addition to (not in place of or at the loss of) his divine person and nature.

“Emmanuel” = God with us **Matthew 1:23** Jesus Christ is undiminished deity unified permanently with true humanity.

2 Corinthians 8:9 *He who was eternally rich become poor for us.*

Philippians 2:5-8 *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, and being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

For Christ Jesus, equality with God was not something “to be grasped” = “to take advantage of.”

Christ Jesus “emptied himself of the form of God” and he took upon himself “the form of a servant.”

When Christ “emptied” himself, he willingly chose to temporarily set aside his status as God—the use of his perks and privileges as God—to take the status of a lowly human servant.

Christ took upon himself all the limitations of manhood and all the deprivations of servanthood and laid down his life as a sacrifice for our sin. That’s Christmas!

John 17:4-5 *“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

FOUR COMFORTING TRUTHS OF CHRISTMAS

1. God is, forever, one of us. (Luke 1:30-33; 2:52; Hebrews 5:8)

In undeniable terms, God affirms in Christmas the glory and dignity he plans for us by becoming one of us! In Christmas, God reveals his vision for the human race.

John 17:22-24. *The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

The Father loves you as much as he loves Jesus, and Christmas proves that.

In the Man, Christ Jesus, we will be brought into the communal oneness of the Triune Godhead.

In Christ, God is creating a new humanity to be with him forever in a new heavens and earth (**1 Corinthians 15:42-49**; **2 Corinthians 5:17**; **Ephesians 2:11-22**; **Philippians 2:20-21**). In Christ, we become partakers of the divine nature (**2 Peter 1:3-4**).

The Bible declares that God has set eternity in our hearts (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**),

2. As the God-Man, Jesus' sinless life and sacrificial death are sufficient to save the world.

Hebrews 2:14 – *Since therefore the children share in the flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.*

Acts 20:28 – *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

2 Corinthians 5:19 *In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.* Nothing now stands between God and sinners, except for unbelief.

He became sin for us (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

3. Jesus' fully human life provides a real example to follow.

John's Gospel is known for emphasizing Jesus' deity, but it's actually the Gospel that most clearly and graphically declares his humanity.

Jesus did not dip into his deity to live out his humanity.

Dr. Bruce Ware – “So many people minimize or demean the obedience of Christ by saying ‘of course he obeyed, he was God and had God’s nature in him. He had no choice.’ Scripture does not let us draw this conclusion. It presents Christ as a man who faced every temptation and succeeded, not because he relied on his divine nature, but because he relied upon the Word, prayer and the Spirit. And he succeeded all the way to the cross—even to death on the cross.”

Jesus modeled for us what a Spirit-empowered, gospel-centered, relationally-invested life looks like.

God creates a new nature in us. (**Ephesians 4:22-24**)

God permanently indwells us through his Spirit. (**John 14**)

We have access to God through prayer. (**Ephesians 2:18**)

We have the Holy Scriptures to light our path. (**Psalms 119:105**)

We have one another as the body of Christ. (**Ephesians 4:1-15**)

We have the same resources Jesus had to grow in our capacity to live, love and lead the way Jesus did.

4. Jesus' full humanity enables him to sympathize with our hurts and help us overcome them.

Hebrews 2:17-18. *It was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.*

Hebrews 2

- Christ's humanity enabled him to regain humanity's lost dominion over the earth. (**vv.5-9**)
- Christ's humanity enables him to bring many sons and daughters to glory. (**vv.10-13**)
- Christ's humanity enabled him to disarm Satan and deliver us from the fear of death. (**vv.14-16**)
- Christ's humanity enables him to be a sympathetic High Priest. (**vv.17-18**)

Isaiah 53 Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

As a human, Jesus he experienced 100% of that temptation without giving in.

Jesus will always provide a way of escape for us, so that we are able to bear the test or temptation successfully (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).