

Jesus is The God Man

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John1:14

August 1, 2021

Hey, so as you know, I get to study the Bible a bunch. I not only read it all the time, but I also every week I take a portion of it and study it intensely. And I'm blessed. I'm truly blessed to get to do that and I'm truly blessed that all of you come on the weekend to find out like what is it that you learned this week? So, along with studying the Bible though, I also studied people that write about the Bible. And as I was doing that this week, I started reading things that I really can't remember ever happening before in my study. So I was reading other Christians on verse 14, and I started reading things like this. Verse 14 is, "The most startling and incredible thing that John could have said." Of all the things that John the writer could have said, what he says in verse 14 is the most startling and the most incredible thing that he could have said.

Here's another one, "With one short shattering expression, John unveils the great idea at the heart of Christianity." You want to know what Christianity's all about? If you're kicking the tires like what is this whole Christianity thing all about? It's all about what is said in verse 14. Here's another one. Not only is verse 14 the high point of verses one to 18, but this author says verse 14 is, "The high point of history." So every event leading up to what's described in verse 14 and every event that's ever happened since all pale in comparison to the event described in verse 14, it is the high point of history. Here's another one. Verse 14 is, "The greatest single verse in the New Testament." All the thousands of verses in the New Testament, verse 14, one author says, the greatest single verse in the New Testament. And then one guy just puts it all together and says this, verse 14 is, "The single greatest sentence ever written in the history of human language." Verse 14. And the deepest theological statement ever written.

Now, I don't read that about every verse I study every week. And it doesn't mean some verses are more inspired than others. It only means that some verses convey truth that is more profound than others. And the first five words of verse 14 may just be the Bible's Everest. The highest, the greatest, the most amazing truth in the Bible that these authors are all saying, this is it. This text may be short, just five words in English, but its depths are as long as eternity. And what is said is so important for your life and for my life that we're going to just look at the first five words today. I could easily spend a month on these first five words, two months on these first five words. The truth conveyed here could take a lifetime of study to only scratch the surface.

But you just need to know... I want to slow down here because I want you to know Christ. I want you to know him well. I want you to linger a little while over who he is. I want your mind to be filled with or overflowing with truth about him and we can't do that by moving quickly. To know him well, we must meditate. We must slow down. We must fill our minds with truth and just let that truth just kind of marinate. And so that's what we're going to do today.

And the reason we're going to do that, because unlike anything you will ever hear, unlike anything you will ever experience, unlike every person that has ever existed, Jesus and Jesus alone is the God-man. Who is Jesus really? On the frontier program, that's what it asks. The answer is he is the God-man. That's what this text is all about. Talk about hard to believe. We are a visited planet. And I'm not talking about aliens. We are a visited planet because the God of heaven walked among us. You want the uniqueness of Christianity, there it is right there. All

religions are not the same. What does each religion say about Jesus is what separates all of them from each other.

Any answer to the question who is Jesus really that's not he's the eternal God who became a human being is not true. And I know that kind of rubs our live and let live everybody has their own truth culture the wrong way. But here's the thing. Jesus can only be whoever we want him to be if he's not a real person, right? If he's just kind of a figment of imagination, he was just someone like King Arthur, just some made up person, then yeah, we can make him whatever we want. But if he's an actual person, just like you're an actual person, I'm an actual person, then there are statements that are true about us and what? Statements that are not true about us.

And so what John is saying as an eyewitness who knew Jesus personally, he said, "This is the Jesus I know. He is the God-man." Anyone that denies that has the wrong Jesus. The only Jesus that exists is the one that his closest friends and followers described him as and they describe him as the God-man and in the words of verse 14, the word made flesh.

So let's look back at verse one, chapter one verse one. Let's look at what John says about the word. And we're going to summarize what he says about the word with point number one, the word deity. Point number one is deity. The word verse one is God's revelation of himself. Just like your words reveal who you are and what you think, so God's word here, verse one is God's self-expression. The word of God is God saying, here's who I am. Here's what I think. Here's what I want. And verse one, in the beginning was the word. The idea being when the beginning began, the word already existed. He already existed because he's not created. He's eternal. He had no beginning. He was already there when the first thing was created because there was never a time when the word did not exist.

And verse one, the word was, notice, with God. Meaning before the beginning, before creation for all eternity, the word was in the very presence of God face-to-face. That's what that word with means. Interrelated, interconnected, united with God. The idea there being united, face-to-face, conveys the idea of equality. The word is equal with God, but yet not the same person. He is equal to God and yet with God as a separate person in a relationship, by the way, that is infinitely loving, infinitely healthy, infinitely satisfying and delightful. In fact, verse one, again, the word was, say it with me, God. This is what the text says. This is an unbiased, accurate translation. But what does it mean? It means this, all that God is, the word is. All that can be said about God can be said about this person called the word. He is all that God is and yet he is a distinct person from God.

So the word is truly God. He's not in an additional God because there's only one God. So there's not two gods, God and the word. There's one God. And I've been calling the word a person. Why? Because look at verse two. The word is what? The word is a he not an it. He was in the beginning with God. Again, he's eternal. He is equal with God. He's separate from God and yet equal with God. Verse three, the word was not created by God, but God created everything visible and invisible. God created everything through the word. There's not a single thing that came into existence that wasn't created through the word. Everything that had a beginning was made through him.

Verses four and five, he's the source of life. He's the source of light, which is truth. This is talking about salvation. He's the only savior. He is the truth. Just stop there first five verses. There's no other honest conclusion to come to when you put all that together than what it says at the end of verse one, the word was God. Just stop and think about that for a minute.

When John writes what he does in verse 14, when he comes back to this idea of the word, which he left in verse one and then brings back in verse 14, he wants everything that he said in verses one to five at least and really one to 13, he wants everything said there about the word to be there when we read verse 14. He wants this in our minds. The one who was eternal, the one who was with God for all eternity, the one who was himself God who created all created things as an uncreated being, the source of life, the source of truth, the only savior. He is God. This is who the word really is. This is his true identity. Without this in our minds, without the true identity of the word in our minds as we enter verse 14, the magnitude of this statement, the Everest of this verse is going to be lost on us.

So for about six months when I was in college, I took film classes, which is like the easiest classes in the whole world. You just watch movies and get As. It was awesome. Teachers had us watch the classics, but before we would watch them, we'd have an hour to two-to-three-hour lecture on that movie. So we talk about the director and the actors and back stories and special effects and cinematography and lighting and all these different things and then we would go watch the movie. And if it was a movie that I saw before, my appreciation went from black and white to color, right? Because I know all this stuff now about this film. And because I could bring all of that knowledge into watching the film, my appreciation for that film just skyrocketed. And it was easy to tell like these movies are trash and these movies are masterpieces because I had this background.

Well, in the same way, everything else that's said in John will be far less appreciated if we don't realize and admit and understand and embrace with all of our hearts what it says at the end of verse one, that the word was God. The word is God, truly and completely and eternally God, that is who the word is. Anything else, anything less is not the real guy. And so having that in our minds as we enter verse 14 is critical. When it says, verse 14, the word, point number two, became. The word became. The word became.

Now it might seem tedious to explain a whole one word with a whole point, but it's essential for what John wants you and me to know about the word. The word became and this is the same word used in verses three and 10 to talk about things coming into existence by creation. And it's used in verse 12 for people who were not children of God who become what they weren't. Who become children of God through trusting in the word.

So in the opening verses of John, these first 18 verses, this word translated became in verse 14, speaks of something that didn't previously exist, but then now does exist. It speaks of entering a new condition, a new state. Something now exists that didn't exist before. In other words, what the word is, is his state of being changed. A new condition that didn't exist before as it relates to the word now does.

But the point though we need to understand is that he did not become something that negated what he was previously. Does that make sense? The word became doesn't mean transform. It doesn't mean a transition took place so that the word went from everything he was before described in verses one to 13 to something completely different. No, the text simply says something happened and that what happened was not an illusion, not a metaphor. It was an actual event that took place where something that didn't exist in reality now exists as it relates to the word. So everything said about the word verses one to 13 still stands. He still is everything that he was, but he also becomes now something that he wasn't previously.

Nothing is taken away, but something new is added. And what that new thing that is added is there in verse 14, the word became flesh summarized with the word, point number three, human. Human. Humanity, which previously didn't exist in regards to the word now does. So verses six to 10, we're kind of hinting that the word is Jesus. Verse 14 is the strong implication that then becomes obvious in verse 17 when John gives the word a name by calling him Jesus. So John has not revealed who Jesus is yet. We know it from an implication 14 is the strongest and then verse 17 is where he names him. So Jesus is the word that we've been talking about. Well, everybody knew that anyway.

So to summarize, God's word, his revelation of himself, his self-expression became a human, entered physical existence. He visited us when he became a man. Jesus is the word who is God who became human. That's Everest. That is the most amazing thing that's ever happened. There's nothing you are ever going to see on television, on your newsfeed, on your Twitter, on your Instagram, there is nothing you will ever experience that is more important, more exciting, more wonderful, less boring than that one fact right there, the word became flesh.

That is the high point of history. It is the greatest thing that has ever happened. The word flesh there refers to being human, yes, but it refers to much more. The word flesh is used for humanity as mortal, as frail, as weak, as dependent, as even perishing. So by saying flesh, referring to humanity in this way, yes, it means that he is everything that a human is. He had a human body, he has a human soul, but all of that, he's everything that makes somebody human. But by embracing humanity completely fully, he's not a kind of an Avenger superhero human. He's weak and dependent. He's that kind of human which makes him our kind of human, right?

Now it maybe true today that to be human is to be sinful, but remember Adam and Eve, they were truly human before the fall, right? They were a body, soul unity as uncorrupted by sin. They were human, but they were flesh too. They were still weak, they were still dependent compared to God. So the word when he became flesh he became everything, it means to be human. A person can be truly human without sin. Adam and Eve were. But by using this word, flesh, John is saying that Jesus is not only truly human, but he became frail, dependent, and mortal human. And we see this in the gospels, right? Jesus gets thirsty. Jesus gets hungry. Jesus takes naps on a boat while going across the lake, right? He prays all the time because he is truly human. And yet while becoming what he wasn't, which is human, he never for one second stopped being what he always was, which is truly God.

Humanity was added to deity. Deity was not subtracted or even slightly diminished for Jesus to become human. He is what he has always been, that is God, and he is what he wasn't, which is human. And by the way, by becoming flesh, it says there in verse 14, Jesus takes on the state, he takes on the nature of all flesh, all humanity, making him the God and savior of all people. Not certain kinds of people, but all people everywhere no matter what. He is the great God and savior of all humanity because we're all flesh.

So when we put all these words together, we end where we started. Deity became human. Jesus is the God-man. The real Jesus, the only Jesus that exists is the Jesus who is the God-man. You can study this idea under the heading of incarnation. Incarnate in flesh. This is the act of the word. The second person, the Trinity, God himself becoming a frail human. That's the incarnation. At no point does he ever stop being all that he was before God by becoming a man. He forever remains all that God is and yet he started being all that humanity is when he was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary, his earthly mother. He is all that humanity is yet

without sin because sin is an intruder. Doesn't belong here. It's not going to be here forever either. Sin may be what it means to be human now, but that's not how it's always been. We already talked about Adam and Eve, but it's not how it's always going to be, right Christian? Because you're going to be fully human and without sin for millennia.

As we think about that for a second, God became one of us. We are a visited planet. The eternal one who never had a beginning was born. The perfect one grew, Luke 2:42, in wisdom and in stature. The creator became a creature. The invisible became visible. The source of life took a first breath. The all-knowing one had his knowledge limited. The all-powerful one had his power limited. The ever always present one limited himself to a single body. The one who had no needs, perfectly self-sufficient, became needy and dependent. The one who existed eternally in the presence of God himself left all of that to come here. The transcendent one, the one high and lofty above everything came so close, so close that he lived a human life.

Jesus is one very unique person with two natures, a human nature just like ours in every possible way and a divine nature just like God's in every possible way. He in no way is less than God or becomes less than God by becoming human. He became all that we are without releasing anything of what he previously was and has been for all eternity. He is the perfect truly true man who was already perfect God and did not lose a fraction of that. At no point in his earthly life did he cease to be God. That's positive statement about it.

So as we contrast that, let's think about that for a second, as the word, as truly God, all who deny that Jesus is God have the wrong guy. Those who'd say his humanity wasn't true humanity, he wasn't really human, he just appeared to be human, have the wrong guy. Those who would say as some do that he was two persons, he's a human person and a divine person in one person, they've got the wrong guy. And those who would say this, which some do, his two natures, human and divine, mixed together to create a new superhuman God-man nature, they also have the wrong guy.

These two natures do not mix into something new. They don't replace or overpower or negate the other like Jesus is the God-man or Jesus is the God-man. One doesn't overpower the other. So he's kind of like 90% or like 51% God and 49% human or the other way around. He's not 50% anything. He is truly God. He is everything that God is in every possible way. He's truly human in every possible way just as we are. He's just as divine as he is human. Those natures are real meaning he is truly God and truly human. Those natures are perfect. They're undivided. They're unmixing. He has been and will remain God forever. And at no point, even right now, will Jesus ever cease to be human.

In this incarnation, the word becoming flesh, that was permanent. He didn't lay aside his humanity when he was done here and ascended to heaven. He is now and will forever remain human. When Jesus came here, when he was born that first day, he was and will forever be the God-man. Listen, that he truly completely becomes one of us and stays one of us forever. If that's not profound, exciting, amazing, mind-blowing, earth-shattering, worship-inducing, obedience-dominating, love-filling, then nothing in all of reality is those things.

He takes our flesh, our blood, our frailty, our bodies, our bones, our muscles, our hair, our eyes, our hands, our souls. He takes it all. He becomes one of us in every possible way yet without sin and remains one of us forever. Forever. Really? Like that cannot be explained apart from love. That cannot be explained apart from grace and mercy and compassion. That cannot exist without

those things, but yet you and I can spend a million lifetimes trying to reach the depths of what those four words mean and we won't even get close.

But let's try for a second. Think about it. He became a human when he could have become an angel. Angels are far more powerful, far more wonderful, more holy, more everything, more amazing than we are in every possible way and yet he became one of us? That doesn't make sense. I know. I know everything I am as a human. I can't imagine the holy, sinless, good, faithful, true, wonderful God of eternity would want to become what I am. Are you kidding me? It makes more sense that Jesus would not become one of us when we consider all that God is compared to what? To all that we are. Seriously? It makes more sense that he would not become one of us when we consider all that he left to become one of us.

But we can't even imagine what he left because none of us knows what heaven is like. All those weird books aside, right? All those fraud books aside is what I should have said. And even when we get to heaven and we're there, we're not going to experience heaven like Jesus did, right? Because we will not be the focus of worship, but he was. The angels of God, Hebrews 1, worshiped him. He's surrounded by perfection. He's never seen sin and for eternity, perfect relationship with the Father and the Spirit on every side. And he leaves all of that to come here where there is nothing like heaven. It makes more sense that if Jesus was going to become one of us that he'd only do it temporarily. He's ascending to heaven, he's like, "Get this off of me." Like get this humanity... It's like, "This is gross. No, I get to be God again." No, the incarnation was irreversible.

Revelation 4 and 5, John has a vision of heaven and he sees, he says, the lamb as slain. So in heaven, he sees the incarnate Jesus with his scars. And it makes more sense that Jesus would not become one of us in light of all that was foretold about what would happen to him when he got here and yet he came here anyway. Just think about that. He came here anyway.

I don't know about you, but my question at this point is why? Why? There are a ton of reasons in the New Testament, some we can't even possibly fathom, but one of the reasons clearly is because only a God-man can rescue us from the penalty we deserve for our sins. Why? Because only God can achieve being right with God. No human can do that. No human has even a chance of doing that because we're the ones that cause the problem. We're the criminals. We cause the sin problem and the problem is far too big for us to fix and it's not something, if we're honest, we'd really even want to fix until it's too late and we stand before him and we realize, uh-oh, I have a problem and I can't fix it now.

So we don't have the ability to fix the sin problem. We honestly don't have the desire to fix the sin problem, the problem that we caused, but we caused the problem, which means we are accountable to fix the problem. We have to make the wrong that we created right. So God alone is the ability, God alone has the loving desire to fix our problem, but we have the responsibility to fix it. That's bad news. That's why there is no salvation, there's no hope, there's no heaven, there's no guilt being eradicated, there's no forgiveness for our sins, there's no adoption as children of God without a God-man. And that is exactly what we have in Jesus. Exactly what we have.

He is exactly like us and he is exactly like God. And that is exactly what we need. He's equal with God, which gives him the ability and the desire to save. Being God gives his saving work and infinite value to cover all who believe and yet his saving work, his death on the cross, his resurrection from the dead, all of that was done how? As a human. Not some superhero human, a

human who was frail, a human who was dependent, who was weak and he did it on behalf of all humans that would believe.

1 Timothy 2:4 says God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. And this is possible, verse five, because there is one God and there is only one mediator between God and man. The man Christ Jesus is the mediator, is the go between. In verse six, the man Christ Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all. We were captured in slavery to sin and he pays the price to set us free to be children of God. And he does that. And he can only do that because he's the God-man. As the mediator, he places one hand on God and he places the other hand on humanity and he bridges the infinite chasm created by our sins between us and God. And that can only happen, representing God to us and representing us to God, that can only happen if he is the God-man. And that's what he is.

If you haven't come to him, if you're sitting there like there's so much stuff that's more important than this, you are deceived. There's nothing greater. There's nothing higher. There's nothing more wonderful. There's nothing you will ever see on your TV, your phone, your tablet in your actual experience, nothing that is more wonderful, that is greater than those four words. The word became flesh. Next time we'll look at the rest of the words in verse 14. Let's pray.

Jesus, many today and yesterday have said to me or made the hand motion that their minds are blown by this text. And the text really gives us a window into you. It is that... Forgive me for not having the vocabulary to adequately explain, adequately describe the magnitude of you becoming one of us and yet we will spend endless ages thanking you for becoming one of us because you took the punishment that humanity deserves for our sins and you rose from the dead to prove that you are the great God and savior that we need. And so for some in this room, you don't let us just admire you like a piece of art. You demand a response. For some in this room and watching, that would mean turning from their rebellion and giving you their lives, trusting in you and you alone as their savior to save you from their sins. And for the rest may this message, may this reminder of your grace and your goodness and your greatness fill our hearts with worship, fill our hearts with love for those around us because you loved us first. Thank you for becoming one of us to save us from our sins. It's in your name I pray. Amen.

Hey, so I haven't left yet. And I haven't left yet because I have a very special announcement to make. So our text, verse 14, you can look at it. It says that Jesus is from the Father, which means that he was sent here on a mission. The mission was to seek and save the lost and our mission is a church is to help people know, love, and serve the one who seeks and saves the lost. So we don't want God to use us to make that just happen here in Gilbert. We want to see him use us to make that happen all over the world and in other states and even here in Mesa and Queen Creek and Tempe and Chandler and beyond. So I'm here today to announce that our amazing team that God has assembled here is changing. Redeemer Bible Church, which is each of us, is planting our first church in the City of Chandler and Costi is going to lead that church. Amazing. Absolutely. Absolutely.

So two and a half years ago when we started talking to Costi about coming here, we made three promises. The first was that he would get a ton of chances to preach the Bible. The second was that we would give him a chance to build ministries. The idea there was that it would confirm for him and for us that he can really lead a church. Well, we've kept our first two promises. So starting in February of 2022, in the gym at Valley Christian High School, we will help him launch the Shepherd's House Bible Church. So here's the logo. Pretty cool, huh?

And we're not sending him alone either. Brett, our associate pastor, is going with him, as well as Sean, our worship director, is going with him as well. And you might be thinking, why? Wait, what? Why? Because when the mission was salvation, God sent Jesus. God sent his best. In the same way, when we want to continue that mission by planting churches, we want to send our best. And that's what we're doing with Costi and with Brett and with Sean. So we love each of them. We love their families. We love working with them and we love it if we all just kind of stayed together, circled the wagon, sang kumbaya and just did this until Jesus comes. But the mission of helping people know, love, and serve Jesus is greater than what we want and what is comfortable. And by the way, the mission moves a lot faster when we plant churches. So that's what we're doing.

Now I know that losing the three of them is going to hurt ministry here. I know that. I know losing these three will mean change and there's been so much change in our world. Like, oh, more change? Not my church. But listen, I told Costi a few months ago, I want to plant him because I want him to experience what I experience every day. I wake up every day knowing that I'm doing exactly what God wants me to do with my life. I have a sense of satisfaction and joy that I wouldn't have doing any other job. And unfortunately, in the position that Costi is in now, he doesn't get to experience that. But as a lead pastor he will. And so shepherding a church as a lead pastor is what he believed God has saved him to do and I want him to experience that.

So Costi, come on up. So if you have any questions for him or you have words of encouragement, please go see him over there at the end of the service, but we made it.

Yes, we did.

We're here. And do you want to say anything to our church?

Yeah. First of all, thank you. And the words of encouragement thing is really helpful because church planting is hard. So we'll take all the encouragement you have and a lot of your prayers. And John, honestly, thank you to you, the elders. I know we're still here for five or six months and we're still going to be one big family and stay connected and be doing the same thing, the mission of God here on earth, but we're grateful. And it has been incredible to watch. I know you and I even when we talked and with Dale and others in the early stages of me coming here and our family moving here, we didn't have some grand plan. We have ideas. And when we use the word vision in the Bible church, it's not sort of in the weird way that some people use it. Like we're experts in prophets on the future. Vision is just sort of a picture of where we want to be.

And so Jesus has been building his church. We wanted to do that as well. And the picture in our minds was, hey, if this works, Lord, if you'll do it, we've got some strategy or some idea of what we do. We'll take people, we'll take the Bible, we'll take a preacher, we'll take a team, and we'll just kind of do what we've done for millennia as Christians. And so that's what we're going to do. Nothing too fancy. We'll go and preach the word and like you guys here and like you have for so long, hopefully stir up a little trouble for the kingdom of darkness and win some lost people and mobilize Christians and equip the saints and serve and then raise up a generation, plant some trees, give them some shade and then kick a group out and they can do it again and we'll be the old guys.

So we're excited and we're grateful. We have a website already. We wanted to have something to at least give our church some next steps, things to understand and know. So shepherdsaz.org is our website, just like redeemeraz.org. And on there, you'll see a membership application if you

want to give us your information. A word of encouragement to all of you. If you're here and you're not already serving and giving and you're a member here, church planting's not the best next step yet. So if it's something you want to do and you feel like God's calling you to do, spend the fall still growing at Redeemer. Train and learn and grow. Maybe God leaves you here or maybe that's an equipping mechanism for the future, but the information is there. And throughout the process we'll remain accountable to the elders here and along with the team here be supporting the launch as a family. So thank you brother and thank you all so much. We're excited for what's ahead.

Yeah. We're very excited as well. Very excited. Very excited. Hey, so two things really quick. One, can we all commit to pray for this please? Put this on your prayer list. Go to the Lord, even like during dinner, thank you for this food and please bless the church plant. Amen. But second, some of you not only need to pray for the church plant, but you need to pray about maybe joining the church plant because it's going to take a ton of work to do that and maybe God wants you to be part of the help, part of the workers in order to do that. All right? So be praying about those two things. So before we stand for our closing song, let's all right now pray for this. Okay? Let's pray.

Well, Father, we are so excited. We're so excited. I could not have imagined six years ago when Redeemer started that we would be planting a church right now and yet by your grace, you didn't let this church die and now you're saying, "Hey, I want you to multiply." That is incredible. And God, planting a church is not easy. It is hard work. The needs are enormous. So please Father, give them, give the Shepherd's House every single thing they will need. Every spiritual, physical, financial, personal need, please meet all of it. And Father, we know the enemy would hate to see this thing start. The enemy would love to kill this thing before it gets off the ground. So please protect this work. Protect Costi, protect Brett, protect Sean, protect their families. Help each of them finish well with the assignment that you've given them here, even as it is natural for their minds to be thinking about the future as well. And help us here at Redeemer too. Help us to be flexible, help us to be patient with change. Also we've never planted a church before. And so help us in every possible way. Help us with the things we don't even know we need help with right now. Give us wisdom, give us humility, give us everything we need to do this well because the church of your beloved son deserves the very best. So help each of us to do our best to plant the Shepherd's House Bible Church in a way that honors you and in a way that helps more people come to know, love, and serve our savior. It's in his name I pray. Amen. Amen. Love you, brother.

Love you too.

Now can we sing.