

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Three: "I Am A Man ... Of Excellence"

I. Son of Man

- Jesus: Son of God and Son of Man
 - Most of us have no problem thinking of Jesus as the Son of God
 - But did you know what Jesus' favorite title for Himself was? Son of MAN
 - Used more than 80 times in the Gospels
 - And He's the only one who used it

A. Supremely Human (Colossians 1:15-20)

- He is the _____ expression of God
- He is God in the _____

incarnate – (from Latin) *incarnari* – “be made flesh”

- invested with bodily and especially human nature and form
- made manifest or comprehensible

B. Humanly Excellent

- Jesus was obviously _____
- He was anything but _____
- Yet, what was it that made Him special?

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. **He had no to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.** – Isaiah 53:2*

*“... Jesus lived humanly in our fallen world, facing temptations and living out the tensions of being human in the flow of life. He was just like us, human in a sinful world, yet he did not sin.” – Dan Russ, *Flesh-and-Blood Jesus**

- He had no _____ (toar – shape, form, appearance)
Jesus didn't look like a leader
- He had no _____ (hadar – magnificence, glory, ornament, splendor)
Jesus didn't act like a leader
- His _____ was not pleasant (mareh – countenance, what is seen)
Jesus wasn't one of the “beautiful people” of His day
He wasn't a feast for the eyes
- Jesus, in His humanity, had no advantages over us
- He would not have stood out in a crowd
- Even His name was commonplace

II. A Man of Excellence

- What would excellence look like in a man?

A. Perfect in every way

- Jesus was the perfect _____ of His Father's image (Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 1:18; Hebrews 1:2-3)
- He was the _____ man
- He was the living _____ of manhood

B. Perfection incarnate

- Jesus lived every moment, every breath, every look, every touch in...
 - in 100% perfection of _____
 - 100% in the bulls eye of His Father's _____
 - He lived 100% free of _____
 - He was 100% free of _____
 - He lived His life in 100% perfection of _____ and _____
 - He utilized 100% of every day, without _____ a single second
 - He was 100% _____
 - He was 100% _____
- He was the living _____ of Godly perfection in a living Man
 - He was the human unveiling of what God's character in man should look like
 - He IS the image of God

C. Humanly impossible?

- So is this standard too high?
- Is the perfection of Christ out of reach?
- Raise your standards!
- Don't settle for the world's definition of manhood
- You have been called to a life of excellence!
- How? His _____!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. – Colossians 3:9-10*

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that **His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. – 2 Peter 2-4*

ANSWER KEY: visible, flesh, unique, ordinary, beauty, majesty, appearance, reflection, ultimate, definition, goodness, will, foolishness, fear, purpose, focus, wasting, trustworthy, faithful, revelation, power

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Week Four: "I Am A Man ... Of Passion"

What are you passionate about? What lights your fire? What gets your blood boiling? Is it sports, work, a hobby, politics, family? Is it injustice in the world? Do you get fired up about unfairness or inequality? It would seem that in our world, our passions are more base, driven by a more self-centered focus. Men are passionate about all kinds of things, but is it the same kind of passion that drove the ultimate man, Jesus Christ? That is what we want to explore this week as we continue our look into the human nature of the God-Man.

- Read the following quote, then write down any thoughts it stirs in your mind:

“There was nothing at all ‘kick-back’ about this Man. there was nothing lukewarm or halfway. What the people witnessed in every teaching and every miracle, every touch and every parable, every sparkle in His eye and every glimmer in His smile, was zeal, excitement, pursuit – *passion*.” – Bruce Marchiano, *The Character of a Man*

Read John 2:12-17

- What kind of passion does Jesus display in this event?
- Why do you think He was so upset?
- Verse 17 is a direct quote of Psalm 69:9. What does this tell you about what might have been driving Jesus' passion?
- Can you think of anything going on in Christianity or religion today that sets your blood boiling like this event did for Jesus? If so, describe it.

Read Romans 12:11

- Look at the definition of the word “mediocrity” to the right. How would you compare that definition to what Paul has to say?

mediocrity – ordinariness as a consequence of being average and not outstanding

- The word that is translated “zeal” or “fervent” in this verse is the Greek word “zeo.” Look at its definition to the right. Why do you think Paul warns us to “never be lacking in zeal?”

zeo - to boil with heat, to be hot, used of boiling anger, zeal for what is good or bad, said of zeal for what is good

- Does it seem like Jesus would have been considered excellent because of his appearance? Explain your answer.

Read Acts 18:24-25

- These verses use the same word for zeal when speaking of Apollos. It is translated “fervent of spirit.” What was Apollos doing that led Luke to refer to him in that way?
- What was Apollos passionate about?
- Do you share the same passion? If so, why? If not, why not?

Read Matthew 23:37-39 and Luke 19:41-44

- Look at the Matthew passage. Read it slowly again. Try to get in Jesus’ sandals. What is He feeling at this moment?
- How does Jesus describe what He wanted to do with the city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants?
- Look at the Luke passage. How does it describe Jesus’ feeling upon looking at the city?
- Jesus describes the destruction of Jerusalem that was to take place less than 40 years later. Do you think Jesus was happy about the coming destruction? What would He have rather seen happen?