

WEEK TWO HANDOUT – **The Son of God Made Flesh**

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: “*And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.*” – John 1:34 ESV

- **The Son of God Made Flesh**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14 ESV

Without the incarnation, Christianity isn't even a very good story, and most sadly, it means nothing. “Be nice to one another” is not a message that can give my life meaning, assure me of love beyond brokenness, and break open the dark doors of death with the key of hope.
– Michael Spencer, *Mere Christianity: Finding Your Way Back to Jesus-Shaped Spirituality*

- In the beginning

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

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—the 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. – 1 John 1:1-2 ESV

- John liked this phrase
- By using it, he was making a direct link back to the creation account in Genesis
- He was also emphasizing Jesus’ deity

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1 ESV

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:26, 27 ESV

- John emphasizes Jesus' role in the creation

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. – John 1:3 ESV

- And yet, Jesus became flesh

*And the Word **became flesh** and dwelt among us.* – John 1:14 ESV

- Latin: *incarnāre* – to make flesh
 - In- + *carō* (flesh)
 - This doctrine is **central** to John's gospel
- The **divinity** and **humanity** of Jesus are inseparable
 - He was 100% God and 100% man
 - He was the Son of God and the Son of Man
 - He was of heaven and of the earth
 - He was from the beginning and born in Bethlehem
- “Son of Man” speaks of His humanity
 - His humanity was essential accomplishing His mission
 - He didn't come to earth in His heavenly glory
 - He took on human flesh and became one of us

*Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and **was born as a human being**. When **he appeared in human form**, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.* – Philippians 2:6-8 ESV

Man's maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die. – Augustine – Bishop of Hippo in North Africa

The problem:

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... – Romans 3:23 ESV

...the wages of sin is death... – Romans 6:23 ESV

...without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness... – Hebrews 9:22 ESV

...it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. – Hebrews 10:4
ESV

The solution:

That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God,

*"You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. **But you have given me a body to offer.** You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin.*

"Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God – as is written about me in the Scriptures.'" – Hebrews 10:5-7 ESV

- Jesus was fulfilling Psalm 40:6-8
- But He also fulfilled Isaiah 53:5-6

*Yet it was **our weaknesses** he carried; it was **our sorrows** that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!*

*But he was **pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.***

*He was **beaten so we could be whole.***

*He was **whipped so we could be healed.***

*All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet **the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.*** – Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

- The sinless Savior died in the place of sinful mankind

*Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. **He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.** He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.* – 1 Peter 3:18 ESV

*Christ offered himself to God as **a perfect sacrifice for our sins.*** – Hebrews 9:14 ESV

- He dwelt among us
 - *skēnoō* – to tent or encamp
 - to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle)
 - From the root word Paul used in 2 Corinthians 5:1

*For we know that when this earthly **tent** we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.*

- God, once again, resided in an earthly tent

*For in Christ lives **all the fullness of God in a human body** (tent). – Colossians 2:4 NLT*

*Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and **the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle.** – Exodus 40:34 NLT*

- The law fulfilled
 - o By becoming a man, Jesus was able to fulfill the law

The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us... – Romans 8:3-4 NLT

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. – Romans 3:20 NLT

Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. – Galatians 3:19 NLT

*For Christ has already **accomplished the purpose** for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God. – Romans 10:4 NLT*

- Jesus became a man so that He could keep the law of God

*...when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, **subject to the law.** – Galatians 4:4 NLT*
- As the Son of God, He kept it perfectly

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved." – Matthew 5:17-18 NLT

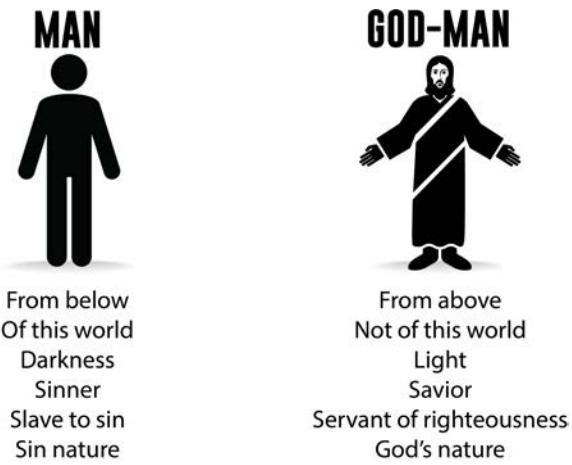
- God's extended His grace to sinful mankind through His Son's actions

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law. – Galatians 2:16
NLT

- Made right (justified) with God

"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." – John 8:23-24 ESV



The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29 ESV

"I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." – John 1:34 ESV

- The Son of God who came to be the sinless sacrificial Lamb
- The Son for sinners slain

"The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things," he said. "He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead." – Luke 9:22 NLT

- He came in the flesh
 - Most rejected Him
 - But some received Him
 - ...As their **substitutionary atonement**
 - ...As the **sinless sacrifice** who took their place
 - ...As the **propitiation** or satisfaction for their sins
 - ...As the **priceless payment** for their debt
 - ...As the **Lamb of God** for sinners slain

Lamb of God for sinners slain,
To Thee I humbly pray;
Heal me of my grief and pain,
Oh, take my sins away. – Charles Wesley

- **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

Spend some time thinking about the following quote:

“The incarnation is a kind of vast joke whereby the Creator of the ends of the earth comes among us in diapers... Until we too have taken the idea of the God-man seriously enough to be scandalized by it, we have not taken it as seriously as it demands to be taken.” – Frederick Beuchner

Consider the fact that Jesus took on human flesh for YOUR sake. He died in YOUR place.
What should be YOUR response?