

# The Incarnation: Personal Implications

Phil 2:1-18 (John 1:1-5, 14)

## 1. Intro

1. This passage deals with what we call the incarnation
  1. Incarnation – God made human; Jesus took on our human form.
2. The Incarnation has direct implications for us as Christians
3. It also sets the stage for how we are to conduct ourselves.
  1. Paul instructs us to be one people. (1-4)
  2. He says that we should have the same attitude as Jesus. (5)
    1. What was that attitude?

## 2. The Incarnation

1. Main thoughts
  1. Existed as God, but did not have to hold onto it. (6)
  2. Took on the form of a man, became a servant, and set aside some of His Godly attributes for a moment. (7)
  3. As a man He became humble and obedient to His Father and went to the cross. (8)
  4. The result being that He is highly exalted and at some time everyone will acknowledge who He is. (9-10)
  5. Illustrate with motorcycle breakdown. (Diane to the rescue)
2. Points to Ponder
  1. God is revealed in Jesus
  2. God added humanity to His deity
  3. It was perfect humanity that was added to His undiminished deity.
    1. He showed us how humanity could live perfectly.

## 3. What The Incarnation Does For Us

1. God is revealed to men through us.
  1. God added His spirit to our humanity.
2. We become partakers of the divine nature.
  1. Potentially we could live perfectly.
    1. But because of sin we fail.
    2. A time is coming when we will live as Christ lived.
3. All this only through Christ' work.

## 4. Work Out Your Salvation

1. So, how does work out your salvation (v. 12) match with what Christ has done for us?

1. Isn't salvation a free gift?
2. If God is to be shown to men, His children must live godly lives.
  1. Be children of God above reproach (15a)
    1. We live in a crooked and perverse time (15b)
      1. Paul talks about his time, what would he think about ours?
3. To continue to live in sin is not only a contradiction, it is also a gross misrepresentation of God
  1. The principle of incarnation corrects false distinctions between what is sacred and what is secular.
    1. The ancient Greeks distinguished between the body and the spirit.
      1. spirit = good
      2. body = evil
      3. My thought life and my physical life don't need to match.
    2. i. e. What I do here today (worship) doesn't need to match what I do tomorrow.
4. What we think and say and do, must be in harmony.
  1. Hold onto the instructions given so that I will not loose what I have gained.(16)
    1. Talking about our inheritance.
    2. Talking about being faithful to the end.

## 5. Practical Application

1. Do you completely understand the Incarnation?
2. Do you completely understand what the Incarnation does for us?
3. Some of these things are a mystery to us, as a result we must practice living by faith.
  1. What we may want is a formula to live our Christian life by.
    1. That is magic – produces the same result every time a certain sequence of events is followed.
    2. We cannot spell out formulas that will guarantee certain results
      1. Seven steps to knowing God's will.
      2. Five steps to powerful sermons.
  2. There is a mystery to how God works in each of us.
    1. One is obedient and may become prosperous
    2. One is obedient and may become poor.
    3. Example (Acts 12:3-17)
      1. Peter's deliverance from jail.
      2. What happened to Peter was a mystery.
        1. No particular belief by Peter
        2. No three steps to "Get out of Jail"

3. God just worked
3. But, read the first three verses of chp 12
  1. v 2 – James is put to death. How come?
4. One prospers, one doesn't.
4. We live by faith, not by formulas (sight)

## 6. Conclusion

1. The Incarnation is pivotal in the Christian life
  1. God came to us through His Son to give an example and to provide a way for us to come to Him.
  2. It brings us to Him in a unique way
    1. We become partaker of the divine nature
  2. It sets us up to begin living by faith, through which we work out our salvation on a daily basis.
    1. Living godly lives, not sinful lives.
3. The Incarnation should provoke in us a sense of “awe”
  1. What is this mystery that He has shed upon us?