

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 6

“This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” John 17:3 (ESV)

Key Thought: God has given us His INCARNATE Word!

A few summers ago I (P David) put together a grill and the written instructions honestly were a bit confusing. Throughout the process I was wondering, “what do these instructions mean?”, “Is this where this bolt is supposed to go?” or, “is the propane tank going to explode when I turn this on?” Written instructions are great, but having the creator and designer of the grill to show me how to put it together would have been IDEAL!

In the Old Testament, God communicated His design for humanity through the people of Israel. Israel was given the law written on tablets of stone instructing them how to love him and love others. These written instructions were pretty clear and yet the people of Israel never seemed to quite understand them or live according to them.

In Matthew 5:17 Jesus said, “do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” In this verse the word “fulfill” means to provide “true meaning.” Jesus Christ, God Himself, came to live out and show all humanity the real intent of God’s written law. According to John 17:3 the Word INCARNATE (which in Latin means “in the flesh”), Jesus Christ, was sent by God to SHOW US who He is, how much He loves us, and ultimately that we might have eternal life!

Jesus Christ shows us LIFE (John 1:1-5) – What if the creator and designer of life not only told us how to live but He actually lived among us and showed us how? That is exactly what Jesus Christ came to do! Verses 1-3 tell us three very important things about Jesus Christ, 1) He existed in the beginning with God, 2) He was (and therefore is) God, and 3) He made all things. What does this mean? Who is this Word? Jesus Christ is 100% God, the Word Himself! The creator and communicator of life came in person to earth to shine the light of what true life looks like.

Jesus Christ shows us God in the FLESH (John 1:14) – Verse 14 tells us that the all-powerful, all-knowing spoken Word (God) who created all things that exist came to the earth, put on human flesh, and dwelt among us. Jesus Christ is 100% human man with flesh and bone! God did not merely give us

an audible or written Word, but His very self to reveal who He is and how to live according to His design.

Jesus Christ shows us God’s GLORY and His NATURE (Heb 1:1-3) – Throughout history, God has spoken to humanity at “many times” and in “many ways”. But it is only through Jesus Christ that God has “spoken” to us directly, face to face. Who is God? What is He like? These questions are answered for us in the earthly life of God’s Son Jesus Christ. God’s radiant glory is on full display. Jesus Christ shows us God’s nature perfectly! What we read about Jesus Christ in the written Word, from eyewitnesses who wrote it down, is the embodiment of God Himself. There is no more clear way that God could have revealed Himself to us than to become one of us.

Jesus Christ shows us God’s POWER (Heb 1:3) – The same power that God possessed to create all things, Jesus Christ currently possesses to uphold the universe. Jesus is maintaining the intricately designed clockwork of the entire universe by His spoken Word (Colossians 1:15-23). The life that Jesus lived 2,000 years ago contained the same unlimited power that God used to speak all things into existence. Therefore, Jesus Christ’s life has all the power necessary to show us who God is and how to relate with Him.

Philippians 2:8 says that, “being found in human form,” Jesus Christ, “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Jesus Christ, the God-man, the incarnate Word, related with us most powerfully when He died on the cross. God came in the flesh to show you how much He wants to relate with you by dying on the cross. Do you want to relate with Him in return?

Questions to Ponder

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ was God or was He just a mere man?
2. Does God becoming man make it any easier to relate with Him?
Why?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Thank God for relating with you through the person of Jesus Christ
2. Pray and express to God what it means to you that He came in the flesh and died on the cross in order to relate with you

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?