



God Became Flesh

**INCARNATE, PART 7**

Sarah Merk-Benitez,  
College & Young Adults Pastor  
December 16 & 18, 2011

We long to see the face of God.

**John 1 (NIV) — The Word Became Flesh**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—  
<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

With Jesus, God became physical — he had flesh, blood, sweat, tears...a body.

**John 1 (The Message)**

*He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*

Incarnation is the model. This is how God engaged the world. Therefore, we must engage the world in the same way.

"Compassion means going directly to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there." — Henri Nouwen

Jesus intends to continue His incarnation in and through us, the church.

*...always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*  
2 Corinthians 4:10 (NASB)

As Christ-followers, it's our job to form the face of Jesus for the world.

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 (NIV)

So, the question is...how are you forming the face of Jesus?



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