

Subject: Why God Became a Man

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-10

There is only one reason why we worship Christ...because He is God. Scripture clearly teaches that Christ is fully God.

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

John 1:1-4¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*² *The same was in the beginning with God.*³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*⁴ *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

Scripture also teaches that Christ is fully man.

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

The question is why did God become a man? One of the great writings in Christian history came from Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the 11th century, *Cur Deus Homo*, "Why God Became a Man." In this message on Why God Became a Man, we will focus on the reasons given in the book of 1 John. John was an eyewitness to Jesus and His earthly ministry. He wrote this letter to give clarity and certainty to the person of Christ and the reality of eternal life. By this time there was much false teaching about who Christ is and the nature of true Christianity.

1. To reveal God and establish fellowship with Him (1:1-3)

The eternal God has entered time and the invisible God has become visible. God by nature is uncreated spirit, but in Christ He became flesh. John and others looked (gazed) on Him and touched Him. Christ was manifested (revealed) to us (vs. 2). Christ came so that we might have fellowship (*koinonia*, same word translated communion). The end result is fullness of joy (vs. 4). One of the candles we light during Advent is the candle of joy. Christmas is a time of joy because we can know God and fellowship with Him.

2. To reveal the holiness of God (1:5)

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. This describes his moral perfection. The holiness of God was on display in the life of Christ. He never said anything wrong, did

anything wrong; never had a wrong thought or attitude. He was “holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.” He was so holy that Peter said, “Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man.” He was so holy that even the thief on the cross said, “This man has done nothing amiss.” He was so holy that he asked the crowd, “Who of you can convince me of sin (accuse me of sin)?” He is the perfect and righteous one.

1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

3. To take away our sins (3:4-5)

Sin is any transgression of the law. Christ, the sinless one, came to take our sins away. He did this by His death and sacrifice on the cross. This is why He is called the Lamb of God.

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

4. To destroy the works of the devil (3:7-8)

The word “destroy” (*luo*, to break up, loosen, dissolve). When Christ came, the devil had the world in his death grip. Christ came to set us free from the dominion of Satan and the bondage of sin. “Works” comes from the word *ergon*, from which we get the English word “energy.” The devil uses all his energy to hold people in bondage and establish evil in the world. Christ came to set us free. How can a Christian be involved in the devil’s work and participate or support that work in any way?

5. To prove God’s love for us (4:7-10)

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

6. To know Christ and have eternal life (5:20-21)

1 John 5:11-12 ¹¹ *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* ¹² *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

The book of 1 John ends with a warning in 5:21. If we put anything in the place of Christ, we have an idol or substitute God. If we make Christ to be any different than what Scripture says about Him, we have an idol or substitute God. Don’t settle for anything less than Christ as the Scripture presents Him to us. No substitutes will do.