

Meditation #27: WORD Becomes Flesh

What does it say?

STUDY: John 1:1-14

GOLDEN TEXT: John 1:14 = *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

What does it mean?

Other than at Christmas, no religious teaching crosses this line—the broad line between the natural and the supernatural. The Hindu “avatars” are claimed as brief appearances of the divine, but not real human flesh. Islam directly denies that anyone can be both God and human. Taoism focuses on nature, but denies the supernatural altogether. Buddhism, Confucianism and secular humanism generally avoid the Creator. *Only through the Bible* do we learn of the One who was all human and all divine—fully natural and fully supernatural—at the same time. Although to us this may seem contradictory, from the Biblical point of view this momentous event is not impossible. On the one hand, nature itself is not a denial of the supernatural, because nature thoroughly depends on the Creator, and is full of his power and presence. On the other hand, the supernatural does not deny nature; instead the Creator designs, creates, and uses all of nature for his purposes and glory. A God this big can engage nature in ways no one else could even consider.

1. When the Creator chooses to be born and “live among us,” how does that transform the “neighborhood”? How should we honor his continuing presence on earth?
2. Of all the names for the Creator, why call him “the Word”? Is Jesus the “first Word” about life? Is he the “last Word,” too? Does the Word make things happen?
3. The verb “*became*” is a very strong word. Why did the Creator suspend standard religious and rational expectations? What would our lives be like if the Word had not become flesh?
4. What is the extra benefit of the Creator living, teaching, suffering, overcoming and communicating in human flesh for a whole life, his thirty-three years? Could any other divine communication be so “full of grace and truth”? Does the Christmas event teach the value of a human life?

What are we going to do about it?

5. Since the Word became flesh as a fertilized human egg developing in Mary, could there be any barriers to his coming into our lives? Do our bodies or behavior provide any limits to his presence, purpose and power? Are we eager to welcome him? (See Luke 1:38.)
6. Does the Word still live “among us”? Does the Word live as one of us? Will he stand with us in facing all our issues, including the ecological issues—and helping resolve them?
7. In the Gospel records, what happened when Jesus showed up at places of need or crisis? What if we brought Jesus along to our environmental discussions? Could he help us get perspective? Create solutions? Commit to action?

Truth To Celebrate: *In the greatest and truest story ever told, the Creator loves his creation so much that he chooses to dwell in it himself.*

Advent-Action: *Use free natural light by opening the window blinds at or after sunrise—more on the sunny side of your building on cool days, and more on the shady side on hot days. Honor the Creator by increasing use of his free direct energy for light and temperature control.*

