



Supper-time Conversations

Through the Gospel of St John

by

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"No one has seen God at any time.
The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has declared Him.
John 1:1-14

— GJ12 —



CHRIST-CONFESSING
METHODIST CHURCH

AGAINST THIS CHRIST-DENYING WORLD

Christ's Incarnation

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

We already know from what we have just studied that it is impossible for us to understand God. He is wholly other than His entire creation. That which is above reason is unknown and unknowable. We have established that all knowledge of God must come to us directly from God. Otherwise it will be choked and clogged up by the lack of mental capacity of the human mind. This compelling notion that we have is that **God** is. Heb. 11:6 "For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." The Greek word "estin" does not mean "exist" (NIV). That is to reduce God to "existence". It is better to paraphrase the word to read: **"For he who comes to God must first believe that God is possible to find"**. This was the reason for the Incarnation of God in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifested in the flesh." This is the most amazing mystery and of all ages. "God manifest" in the flesh. In recent years we have heard much of the Gnostic "gospels". These people could not accept this possibility. John refers to them as being of the anti-Christ which will come into the world in the last days — as being then already present.

Read: 1 John 2:18-27; 4:1-3 and John 7

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, help me to be focused on You only, for in You is my all sufficiency. Amen.

Christ's Earthly Life

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

The difference between being for Christ and against Christ lies between believing that the Word (Christ) is God become flesh, and believing that Christ is a man who God took over. That is the anti-Christ. John 8:24 "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins." In Christ we have the two natures: that of God and man. He is perfectly human in His humanity and perfectly God in His divinity. The Word became flesh implies that He **became** what He was not previously. The Old Testament is full of the divinity of Christ. Arthur Pink gives us the following references to this: He was to be born of a woman - Gen. 3:15; A prophet like Moses - Deut. 18:18; A descendent of David - 2 Samuel 7:12; Jehovah's "Servant" - Isa. 42:1; A man of sorrows - Isa. 53:3; A branch of the Lord, beautiful and glorious - Isa. 4:2; The wonderful counsellor, the mighty God, the Father of the ages, the Prince of peace - Isa. 9:6 & 9:9; He was to come suddenly to His temple - Mic. 5:2; The one born in Bethlehem was also the one who going forth had been from the days of eternity. The incarnation does not therefore mean, as the Anti-christ believe, that God dwelt in a man. He that was, and is eternally God, became a man and was still God.

Pray: Lord protect me, I beg You, from the lies and deceptions of the anti-Christ with in the church. Amen.

Christ's Glory

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

Read: Isa. 6:1-7; John 17:1-5 & 20-26; 2 Cor. 3:18: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." May this always be true of every Christian. It is extremely distressing when Christians lose that glow they once had when first they met the Lord. Too often Christians grow tired, old and grey and cease reflecting the Lord's glory. They are not being transformed into the likeness of our Lord Jesus. They may try to put on a smile and appear to be cheerful but it can never substitute for real happiness that comes from the Spirit of the Lord. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us means that He tabernacled with us. It reflects the time after Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt and journeyed through the wilderness before they entered the promised land. The wilderness portrays the bleak desolation of the world in which God tabernacled with human beings. When the Word became flesh, He, the living God stayed in the midst of an even more desolate people who did not know Him and His own people (Israel) rejected Him.

Pray: Thank You Lord for Your amazing love that brought You from heaven to rescue sinful me. Amen.

Christ's Pre-eminence

John 1:15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, "He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.""

Historically, John the Baptist was born six months before Christ was born in Bethlehem. However John was bearing witness to Christ's divinity. The Word was in the beginning, and was God and the glory of Jesus Christ was there. John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may **behold My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." Christ Jesus is entirely God and Man in all perfection: nothing can be added to Him. Nothing altered, modified or updated. He is eternal and does not change. The moment we presume to fashion Christ to our current views, He ceases to be God and becomes a figment of our imagination. Gen. 6:5 "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The pre-eminence of Christ is carefully and faithfully preserved in these scriptures. The pre-eminence of Christ is no longer respected. Those who uphold doctrines of the restoration of Israel the nation, and the re-building of the Temple, make Israel the Alpha and the Omega, while others impinge on the sufficiency of Christ. Note Col. 1:9 and Col. 2:9.

Pray: Lord, Your love and infinite patience has conquered my life. But I am so ashamed at the many times I doubted Your all-sufficiency in my life. Amen.

Christ's All-sufficiency

John 1:16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

If we fully grasp the meaning of Christ's fullness that we, who are His, have received, we would not be restless and forever crave more blessings, gifts and other things. Here John is emphasizing the eternal deity of Christ. Col. 1:19: For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. Col. 2:9 "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Of that fullness we have received." Christ even prayed that we should be incorporated into the oneness of the Holy Trinity (John 17:11-13) and then not being fully satisfied, we insult the Lord and the spirit of grace. No wonder Paul on another but similar issue asks the Galatians in chapter 3:1 "Who has bewitched you?" Having been saved by grace why do we hanker after lesser things? We are fascinated by forms of baptism, speaking in tongues, casting out of demons, experiences, sensations, second blessings, holiness, powers and material things. Is it then "Christ Jesus" that we have received? Those who become embroiled in such matters after they have become involved with servants of Satan. New born Christians are the most vulnerable and they should avoid such "Christians" who "add" to the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ. From Christ we have received: life - John 10:28; peace - 14:27; joy - 15:11; God's own Word - 17:14; the Holy Spirit - 20:22. Jesus is our all-sufficiency.

Pray: My Saviour, my God, I have received of Your fullness; there is nothing else that I dare desire. Amen.

Christ's Moral Purity

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The pure ethics of our Lord Jesus Christ is unparalleled in all human history. He had no hint of any selfish and ulterior motives in all that He did or said. He, as we should, lived only to do His Father's will. It must not be assumed that He was not human and that disobeying or doing His own thing was impossible for Him. He was tempted in all things as we are, yet He was without sin. He rebuked Peter for tempting Him (Matt. 16:23). In His ethics He was completely altruistic. Christ's ethical purity is best illustrated in His healing ministry. He never capitalized on the suffering of others, neither did He use it as a marketing ploy. He healed only out of true compassion for those who were suffering. "See that you tell no one." He commanded them. The Law was given by Moses and that awesome event is well described in Heb. 12:18-21. Its purpose was to make us Holy in order that we may be with God. There was no mercy for anyone who transgressed the Law. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Satan had possession of people's minds. They became so morally corrupt that they were incapable of obeying God's commandments. By the death, resurrection and ascension of the incarnate Son of God and by His indwelling Spirit, His own are made able to keep His perfect Law.

Pray: Please make me to love You Lord, with that love with which You loved me, lest it be in vain. Amen.

Christ's Marvellous Mission

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

We have learned that God does not exist as created things exist. God is entirely other than creation and only God creates because He creates out of no thing. All we do is re-arrange what God created. Therefore our text refers to the **“only begotten”** The creed states that Jesus was begotten not created. The Scriptures reads “only begotten”. The word in the Greek “monogenés” is used only in Hebrew 11:7 - Isaac; Luke 7:12 - The son of the widow at Nain; Luke 8:42 - The daughter of Jairus; Luke 9:42 - the demoniac boy. John 1:14 and 18; 3:16 and 18; 5:18, 1 John 1:9. The Term “monogenés” which John uses exclusively for Jesus is because of His **unique** relationship with the Father. Because He is the **ONLY BEGOTTEN SON** who is in the bosom of the Father. Jesus **declares** (speaks out, reveals, unveils, displays) the supreme proof of God's love for us. He exposes the devil as a liar. Every time we sin we say: “God You are a liar.” We must then look at God's only begotten Son on calvary! The decision of Life and Death, the sharing of all things with the Father, sharing the Father's glory even from eternity is not only that of a Son but of the only begotten Son of the living God. The eternal begetting “monogenés” is distinctive of Jesus.

Pray: Thank you Jesus for declaring Yourself and the Father's great love and nearness to me. Amen.