**Sermon Title: The Supernatural Pre-Existence, Part 3**

**Sermon Text: John 1:14-18**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the truth and grace of God’s revelation of Himself to mankind.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 6 ways Jesus is the expression of God in the incarnation.**

**Introduction:** Jesus reflects the attributes of the God of the Old Testament. Jesus is God manifested in human flesh and His words and deeds are those of Deity, the God Man. Jesus did not take on the appearance of a human, He became a human being. Humanity was added o Christ’s Deity. “He took to Himself humanity or arrived on the scene of humanity, as a human, as God.

“Our Lord took a body like ours and lived as a man in order that those who had refused to recognize Him in His superintendence and captaincy of the whole universe might come to recognize from the works He did here below in the body, that what dwelt in this body was the Word of God.” – Ahanasius

[**The New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotes, Baker Books, 1973, p.527**]

**I. Jesus is the expression of God in human flesh. V.14a**

**II. Jesus is the expression of God dwelling with humanity. V.14b**

**III. Jesus is the expression of God’s glory. V.14c**

**IV. Jesus is the expression of the witness sent by God. V.15**

**V. Jesus is the expression of God’s superabundance grace. V.16**

**VI. Jesus is the expression of God indefinitely. V.18**

**I. Jesus is the expression of God in human flesh. V.14a**

 Jesus came and took to Himself a complete and genuine humanity, without sin and without weakness, in the incarnation. He did not lose any of His Deity, He simply took on human flesh.

 Jesus existed before time and creation. “In calling Jesus the ‘logos’ the ‘Word,’ John is saying that the reason why everything exists is because it was created by the personal Lord, the God of the Old Testament, and that Jesus is the God who has created, has been revealed, and has saved (repentant humanity) in history.” [**The Reformation Study Bible Student Edition: ESV, p.1867**]

 (**Hebrews 1:1-6**)

 **Acts 14:11** Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

 **1 Peter 1:17-21** And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. **20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you **21** who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**II. Jesus is the expression of God dwelling with humanity. V.14b**

 The word “dwelt” literally means “pitched His tent.” The term recalls ancient Israel’s tabernacle and tent of meeting, where God resided in the midst of His people.

 **Exodus 40:34-35** Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **35** And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

 Jesus is God’s true residence among humanity. The Holy Spirit replaces Jesus in the role during the church age.

**III. Jesus is the expression of God’s glory. V.14c**

 John may be referencing **Matthew 17:1-13**, “we have seen His glory.” Just as God’s glory was seen in the wilderness (**Exodus 16:1-10; 33:18-23**), also in the tabernacle (**Exodus 40:34-35**) and later in the temple (**1 Kings 8:1-11**). Glory applies supremely to God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, the One before whom all knees must bow and worship. The Son of God even in human flesh has divine glory by right according to **John 17:5**.

 **John 17:5** "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

 A. Jesus is a reflector of God’s **unique** love. V.14d

 The truth magnifies the point of the eternality of the Son of God in the Trinity.

 **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

 The Son is eternally God, equal with the Father. “Only begotten” is the idea of “the only or unique beloved one.” Loved like no other.

 B. Jesus is a reflection of God’s **faithfulness**. V.14e

 Jesus cuts a true path to God, in a world of falsehood. Hence, right knowledge and understanding about Jesus is essential.

 The “Word” made flesh is the visible expression, making fully known the grace and truth of the covenant making and covenant keeping character of God.

**IV. Jesus is the expression of the witness sent by God. V.15**

 John the Baptist’s testimony corroborates and validates John the Apostle’s statement regarding the eternality and incarnation of Jesus Christ.

 A. Point people to Jesus because He is the One who came down from heaven.

 B. Point people to Jesus because He is the One who is the exact image and expression of God.

 C. Point people to Jesus because He is the One who can save His people and those who are not His people from sin.

 D. Point people to Jesus because He ranks higher than a human.

**V. Jesus is the expression of God’s superabundance grace. V.16**

 The phrase emphasizes the superabundance of grace that has been displayed by God toward mankind, especially believers.

 **Ephesians 1:5-8** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. **7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace **8** which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

 **Ephesians 2:7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

 A. The **sign** of man’s dilemma. V.17a

 The greatness of the old dispensation was the giving of the “Law” by God, to Moses, to the nation of Israel.

 B. The **solution** of man’s dilemma. V.17b

 The glory of the new dispensation (church age) is the incarnation of God’s grace and truth, through Jesus Christ. This is why the Holy Spirit speaks of Him.

 **John 15:26-27** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. **27** "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**VI. Jesus is the expression of God indefinitely. V.18**

 A. He has **uniquely** declared God. V.18a

 B. He has **singularly** declared God. V.18b

 Theologians derived the term “exegesis” or “to interpret” from the word declared. John is saying that all that Jesus is and does interprets and explains who God is and what God does. He has made God known!

 **John 14:8-10** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say,`Show us the Father '? **10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**“**There is only one God, one Savior, one true religion, one holy book, one gospel, one way of salvation. All other religious claims are lies, deceptions, doctrines of Satan and demons that lead people to eternal hell along with all the immoral, irreligious, atheistic, hedonistic, naturalistic unbelievers. That is the most offensive statement that I could come up with. It just happens to be the truth.” – John MacArthur

**Conclusion:**

“The Only Begotten Word of God has saved us by putting on our likeness. Suffering in the flesh, and rising from the dead, He revealed our nature as greater than death or corruption. What He achieved was beyond the ability of our condition, and what seemed to have been worked out in human weakness and by suffering was really stronger than men and a demonstration of the power that pertains to God.” – Cyril of Alexandria

[**The New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotes, p. 528**]