

# *The Purple Pulpit*

Installment #2

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## **The Incarnation of Christ: the Fact of It**

Before we get into the deeper considerations of the Incarnation, we should Scripturally establish the fact of it. The Scriptures throughout contain clear statements of the Deity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, and the combining of the two via incarnation. Let us look at some of the places where a clearly-stated witness to the embodiment and inhumanation of the Word of God is testified.

The Scriptures state that “God was manifested in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16), and that, as such, He was “Immanuel, which being translated, is ‘God with us’ ” (Matthew 1:23), “Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider it a robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, having taken the form of a slave, having come to be in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6,7). It was thus that “the Word” (Who was previously referred to and designated as “God” in John 1:1) “became flesh and tabernacled among us” (John 1:14). In Romans 9:5 the Lord Jesus is called “the Christ according to the flesh, the One being God over all, blessed into the ages.” In Colossians 2:9 it is affirmed of Christ Jesus that “in Him is residing all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Fortright assertions of the incarnation of Deity in the Person of Christ make sense of passages like Acts 20:28 that refers to the church as “the assembly of the Lord and God which He acquired through His own blood,” and Jeremiah 23:5,6 which speaks of an obviously-human descendant of David being “Yahweh our righteousness.”

Since these things are true, it follows that such a singular, unique, and unequalled happening as the incarnation of God would merit its being the absolute benchmark of the faith! Think about it: the only true God has become a human being like us, this enfleshment never to be reversed! The only thing that could equal the “shock-value” of such an unparalleled occurrence (if we would guard against the negative familiarity that would rob our hearts from their astonishment) would be the subsequent fact that this One

would fain die by crucifixion to justly acquire our souls from damnation! It is preeminently appropriate that these truths (including His glorious resurrection from the dead) be the deserving core of the faith of those who believe them!

Because of this, 1 John 4:1-3 does indeed make it the litmus test for all those to be recognized as truly speaking from the Christ-promoting Spirit of God: “In this the Spirit of God is known: Every spirit which is confessing Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which is not confessing Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh is not of God!”

From the simple fact of our faith, let us proceed to explore some of the implications, ramifications, inter-connections, and dynamics of what all is entailed in the incarnation of the God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. “And this we should do, if indeed God should allow.” (Hebrews 6:3)