



Jesus: The Fullness of Deity (Part 2)

Brownsburg Church of Christ

by Edwin Crozier

April 13, 2014

PM Assembly



Introduction:

As amazing as it is to consider, when the shepherds saw the boy in the manger, they were looking at deity become flesh. When the wise men worshiped the child, they were worshiping deity become flesh. When the Romans crucified and the Jews mocked the beaten man on the cross they were blaspheming deity become flesh. While Jesus walked on earth, He was the fullness of deity become flesh. As we said in the first part of this lesson: "Jesus was fully God and fully man. He was everything He needed to be and had everything He needed to have to be God. He was everything He needed to be and had everything He needed to have to be man. And He had all that at the same time." And because of that, we understand He is the perfect mediator between God and us. But, we do not merely wish to know some things about Jesus. What does this mean for us today? How does this incarnate deity impact us?

Discussion:

- I. Because the fullness of God dwelt in Jesus, we must fully dwell in Jesus.
 - A. **Colossians 2:6-10** says not only does the fullness of God dwell in Jesus, we need to dwell in Jesus. We must receive Jesus Christ the Lord and walk in Him. By this, we are rooted in Him, built up in Him and made complete in Him. Our life is to be hidden in Him (**Colossians 3:3**).
 - B. **John 15:1-11** says a great deal about dwelling in Christ. Each of us is a branch that needs life in order to bear fruit. Unless we are connected to the vine, we shrivel and die. Jesus is that vine. He is the source of our life (cf. **John 1:4**). Abiding in Christ is not a mysterious, ethereal feeling. Rather, it is a very practical issue. We abide in Christ when His words abide in us and we do what He says. Through this, we may have joy and our joy may be full. Paul made this same point in **Colossians 3:15-16**. When we allow the Word of Christ to dwell in us, then the peace of Christ will rule in our hearts, guarding our hearts and minds (cf. **Philippians 4:7**).
 - C. Paul further explains we must not be turned away by deceitful doctrines and teachings (**Colossians 2:9, 20-23**). We must not be turned aside by what merely has the appearance of wisdom. We need to "try the spirits," so to speak, (cf. **I John 4:1**) and make sure what we are following is truly from Christ, comparing what is taught to the Word of Christ. No matter how logical, how reasonable, how deep something may sound, if it is not anchored in the Word of Christ it will not help us dwell in Him in whom the fullness of deity dwells.
- II. Because deity became flesh, we can find help from Him.
 - A. **Hebrews 2:14-18** and **4:14-16** says the incarnation of deity in Jesus Christ should be a great comfort to us. In fact, these passages are an amazing demonstration of the grace of Jesus Christ. First, we recognize that God, knowing all things, did not have to become one of us to fully know and understand what we go through. Therefore, this incarnation was not at all for His benefit. He was not trying to figure out what our lives were like. Rather, He was giving us comfort. We are now more certain that deity knows what it is like to be human. We are far more likely to turn to the God who has been through what we go through than the God who has merely created us and left us on our own. He did this for us. What a great God we serve.
 - B. Having said that, something else amazes me about these two texts. Jesus lived as one of us, yet He did so perfectly. He faced temptations, trials and tests, yet He came out completely unscathed, speaking spiritually. In this kind of situation with men, we generally see that those who have gone through something and come out victorious are usually not that helpful. They were able to do it; they can't understand why we can't succeed easily too. They are rarely sympathetic with us at all. However, Jesus is completely different. His success has not made Him arrogant, harsh, or impatient. Rather, His experience has made Him sympathetic with our plight. When we struggle, we know we can go to Jesus and find a source of strength and help. He doesn't want to hold His success over our heads. He doesn't withhold His help saying, "I did it, so can you." He doesn't look down on us as failures. He helps us. No doubt, we should learn to treat each other in the same way.
- III. We must follow His example.
 - A. **Philippians 2:3-8** says that the incarnation was not just for our benefit, it was for our example. As Jesus was willing to leave the glories of heaven and abandon the visible glory of deity in order to come to earth as one of us and serve us, we ought to be willing to serve one another. Jesus did not regard "equality with God a

thing to be grasped” (ESV). The point is Jesus, as deity, is equal with God. In heaven, that was apparent, however, coming to earth, no one would see that equality. In fact, if He tried to assert that equality, He would be rejected by men. Yet, Jesus did not scratch and claw to hang on to His honor and appearance. He was willing to let that go and come among us. He did not live from rivalry, trying to politically put Himself forward. He had no conceit that He had to let everyone know how great He really was. He was far more interested in our needs than His own.

- B. The great point for us is if the divine can exercise this kind of humility in order to serve us, how much more ought we exercise humility to serve one another. Jesus gave a pointed object lesson on this in **John 13:12-17**. If the Master could put on the vestments of slave and perform the duties of slave for His disciples, how much more ought the disciples be willing to do that very same thing for one another. He has given us an example that we should do as He did for us. If deity can be a servant, so can we.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ was God become flesh in order to save us, but that salvation is not merely getting us to heaven despite ourselves. He became flesh in order to help and change us. He became flesh to provide us victory. He endured what we endure to provide help for us. He lived as a servant to give us strength to be servants. In the first part of this lesson, we ended by discussing how we enter Jesus (through baptism: **Galatians 3:23-27**). Let’s end this part of the lesson by considering whether or not we live like we are in Jesus. The grace of Jesus is meant to change us as He dwells in us. Is it changing you?