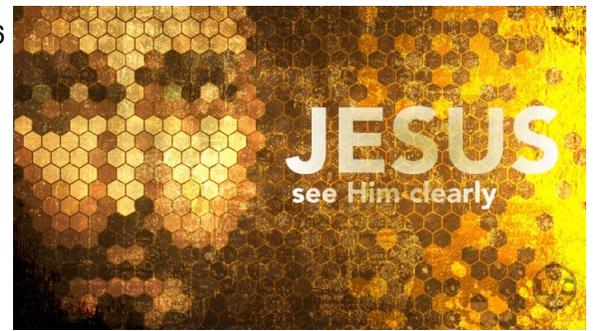




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



God became Man or Man became God?

Introduction: Two errors developed shortly after the church was founded. One view was that Jesus was only divine and could not put on flesh due to his deity. The other view was that Jesus was only human and was not truly divine. Both of these views are incorrect. The church, from its infancy, has always held to the truth that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Text: 1 John 4:2-3

Discussion:

1. Religion is man's attempt to get to God. Christianity is God coming to man. Discuss/write the significance of this fact and the impact it makes on your life.
2. Jesus truly had a human body that was physical, spiritual, and emotional. Discuss the human side of Christ and how this shapes your view of God.
3. Jesus was moved by compassion. What examples can you give of ways you are moved to minister to others.
4. Read Philippians 2:5-8 Augustine said "Christ added to himself which he was not, he did not lose what he was." When Jesus humbled himself to put on flesh, He did not change his identity, but his role. How does this help you understand how God can become man?
5. Jesus our Representative of obedience: Read Romans 5:12,18-19 We are born in the family of the first Adam. Jesus is the last Adam who lived the life that Adam and all of us could not live. Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly. We are reborn in the last Adam—Jesus. Discuss/write the importance of seeing the truth that Jesus is last Adam.
6. Jesus is our Substitute: Read Heb. 12:16-17. Define "propitiation" and write/discuss the significance of what Christ accomplished by being our substitute.
7. Define the word "Mediator" Tell of a time when you had to have someone mediate on your behalf. Discuss/write the beauty of Jesus being our mediator.
8. Read Heb. 4:15-16 and discuss/write how the truth of this role of Jesus comforts and encourages you.
9. God became man to be our example of how to live. Although we will never be perfect, how do you stack up? How does Jesus' life demonstrate how to live out the following: a life of mission, sharing the good news, forgiveness, a love for the church, humility, and a concern for all people groups to hear the gospel?

Think About it:

Jesus was not a man who became God, but God who became man. This is great news! If Jesus was a mere man who became God, then the power to get to God would be up to me. I would have a hard time making it (not sure about you). But God redeems us. We can not redeem ourselves or others. Jesus is the fully God Man who adopts us into his family so that we might be restored from the brokenness of our first family.

Moving Forward:

Jesus is our great High Priest. He lived a full human life with all the human experiences. He was tempted in all ways as we—lust of flesh, lust of the eye, and the boastful pride of life—yet without sin. As believers, we have the privilege of taking all of our hurt, fear, pain, struggles, anxiety, grief, stress, and temptations to Jesus. We have a God who understands exactly what we face and grants us the strength and power to walk in victory. Take time this week—speaking to God our Father, through Jesus the son (our mediator and high priest), by the power of God the Holy Spirit. Talk to him and reveal your heart and find your help in Christ.