



*Christmas Eve 2023*

**But it's true!**

John 1:1-5, 10-14, 18

### **I. The Most Radical Claim**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” John 1:1-2

John is writing about Jesus of Nazareth, who he was with for three years; who he saw crucified; and who he later was with after Jesus was resurrected.

These words, penned by John, are the single most explosive words in the Bible. In fact, they are the single, most explosive words ever written in the history of humanity. John is making the stunning claim that Jesus of Nazareth was with God for all eternity, and he was in fact God! Jesus was both fully God and fully man!

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

This is the most concise statement of the meaning of Christmas – “The Word became flesh” – The Eternal Son of God became a man!

### **II. Three Radical, Life-Changing Truths about Christmas**

A. In Jesus God became like us (intimate, compassionate knowledge).

Jesus wasn't God pretending to be a man; Jesus wasn't an avatar or the product of AI.

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Hebrews 2:14-15

Because God became a man in Jesus Christ, He has intimate, empathetic knowledge of what it’s like to be you!

B. In Jesus God came for us (rescue and renewal).

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior...” Titus 3:4-6

When we come to Jesus Christ by faith, we are united to him in his life. All of his grace begins to stream into our life like a fountain of pure, spring water bubbling up from within our hearts.

Because God came for us in Jesus Christ, we can be rescued and renewed forever.

*“In Christ two natures met to be your cure.” – George Herbert (1593-1633)*

C. In Jesus God came to be with us (relationship).

Emmanuel = God with us.

*“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his Name, he gave the right to become children of God – children...born of God.” John 1:12-13*

Faith leads to relationship. Jesus calls us friends.

Aristotle said that man could never be friends with the gods, because the gap was too wide. Man and the gods have nothing in common.

C.S. Lewis, in *The Four Loves*, wrote about the essence of the bond of friendship = “You too!”

In Jesus God has bridged the chasm between Himself and man to make us His friends.

### **III. God’s Announcement and Invitation**

*“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’” Luke 1:38*

*“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.” John 1:14*