

The Experience of Divine Love

John 1:14-18

Introduction: There are three places in John's gospel where keys are given that unlock the text of the Apostles writing. The first key was given in verse 1; where John gives the essential and eternal deity of Christ. The second key is given here in verse 14; where the mystery of the incarnation is revealed. The Word (logos) assumes a new form of existence. To truly understand the incarnation we must accept the Word did NOT cease to be God. He remained the second person of the godhead while putting on humanity, "He became flesh." Humanity was NOT something that was assumed and later discarded, humanity expressed a new form of existence. When the second person of the godhead (Jesus Christ) put on humanity and dwelt among men He did so to bring Divine love face to face with mankind. Divine manifests itself through 5 different pathways all of them necessary in order for us to understand who the Lord Jesus is. Notice with me...

I. Divine love is given through His Incarnation. V.14

He "was made flesh" and He "dwelt among us" uses the Greek word skay-no'-o; which actually means tabernacle. Think of the typology of the tabernacle coming to life in the person of Jesus Christ!

Christ dwelt among us to dwell within us; does He truly dwell within you today?

II. Divine love is given through His Identification. V.15

The Apostle John quotes John the Baptist to establish the Lords credibility as the Messiah!

A. Credibility comes from His person! V.15a

Credibility comes from personal witness that witness was given by John the Baptist.

B. Credibility comes from His Pre-eminence! V.15b

Credibility comes through the realization that nothing or no-one is greater than Jesus Christ.

C. Credibility comes from His Pre-existence! V.15c

Credibility comes through the reality of Jesus existing before there was anything else!

Is the credibility of Jesus Christ identified by others through your actions, words and life?

III. Divine love is given through His Imputation. V.16

Notice with me the word fullness, the Greek word is play'-ro-mah and speaks of the sum total of all the attributes and powers of God. They are inexhaustible and through them every believer is given all he or she needs.

John the Baptist was quoted as the last Hebrew messenger the line of prophets that Identified Jesus as the messiah. Now John the Apostle speaks as the last Apostle the line which identifies Jesus as the love of God sent to redeem the world from sin.

Is the imputation of the fullness of God seen in your life?

IV. Divine love is given through His Implementation. V.17

The law was given, grace and truth came! This Grace and truth was wrapped up in human flesh, brought into the world by Jesus (the man) Christ (the messiah). The Apostle Peter says He went about doing good, there is not a better statement to emphasize the Lords grace. Grace and truth were both given through Him but neither was sacrificed for the other.

“The law of Moses embodied grace. Human failure to keep the moral law necessitated the giving of the ceremonial law so that guilt could be covered until it could be cancelled at Calvary. But it was not until Jesus came that the truth and grace inherent in the law could be fully implemented in a peerless human life and thus be translated into a language all can understand.”

Is Grace and truth put into effect through your life via Jesus Christ?

Conclusion V.18: Through Jesus God gave mankind a direct view of Himself. Throughout the Old Testament God gave visions, theophanies and angelic visits. Men like Abraham and Jacob, Moses and Manoah, David and Daniel, Isaiah and Ezekiel all had manifestations of God. The “glory of the Lord,” the “angel of the Lord,” the “Word of the Lord” all came but none of them were able to stand in His presence. None of them were able to experience His redeeming power as we have in the church age. Only through the person of Jesus Christ can we experience the heavenly light of illumination that reveals our sin, reveals our need, and reveals the pathway to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Have you experienced the illumination of God through Jesus Christ?