

John 1: 1-18 Truly Human/Truly Divine

I can only imagine how often you have heard these words –

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” It might sound a bit like some confusing philosophy....In the beginning was the word, but with a capital W. The word was **with** God. And the word **was** God! That can make a person’s head spin.

My hope is, that over the course of the next few weeks, as we study the first 3 chapters of John, you will be able to make sense of that opening verse.

The major theme, and intention of John’s work, was to prove conclusively, three things:

- that Jesus is the Son of God,
- that all who believe in him will have eternal life, and
- that Jesus was truly human and truly divine.

John will bring these truths home, time and time again.

Before the end of verse 5 of chapter 1, John brings out his first metaphor. God's love takes the form of light. John claims that this light is in all people....in you, and in me. It is a light so strong, and so resilient, that even the darkness cannot overcome it.

A song we used to sing at camp says this, "You are the light of the world O Lord. And you make your Spirit shine. So how can there be any darkness in me, if you are the light of the world."

Think about that image for a moment....light. The light inside of you....the light in you that shines into the darkness.....the light in you that shines into the lives of those you love....your family, your friends.

There are some people whom you know, about whom you would say, their light shines....they have a glow about them.

There are some people who would say that they see that light in you!

There is a joy, a warmth, a strength. It is your light.

God's light within His people cannot be contained. There are times when perhaps it does not shine so bright. There are times when we certainly feel that it is not shining. But it is there, and it is indistinguishable. Verse 9 tells us that the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. God's light, enlightens everyone, it is alive, in some measure, in everyone. And there are days when it shines bright, and other days when it is dim...but it is there always.

Is there anyone in this world, with whom you do not agree? Anyone who you do not respect, that you do not want to spend time with, that you wish would go away? I wonder, that in humility, your light might shine into their lives....not so that you might change them, but so that you might see something within them that you might love, or at least respect or so that they might see God's light within you and be drawn to it? Can there really be anyone, into whose life, you do not want your light to shine?

John gets us thinking about the light of God's love that lives within each one of us. It is worth taking some time to just ponder that phenomenon. To look at that metaphor from a number of different angles. To see ourselves as conduits for that light, emanating out of our lives, into the lives of one another.

John then makes the segue to this man in the wilderness named John. He was sent from God according to John. He came as a witness to testify to the light so that all might believe through him.....again, John's desire, that ALL might believe.

Let's stop here for a moment. John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

A witness.....someone who speaks in support of someone or something.

A witness is someone who verifies that what someone said or did is true.

Testify, is the expression of that witness.....in writing, in word, or in action.

John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the light. The writer of the 4th gospel makes it clear, that this man John the Baptist was not the light but rather came to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. John knew his role in life was to find ways to let God's light shine into the lives of others....That is how he testified....with his words, and his deeds. That others might be drawn to that light and that their lives might be changed and blessed.

Imagine, who might come to believe, or grow in their faith, or be encouraged on their faith journey because they were drawn to the light of God because what they have seen or heard from your words or actions? Who has seen the light in you?

Let's take a moment to consider how and where we might have been a witness to the light of God and how we might have testified to that.

Think about something you said or did, that would communicate to an observer, that the light of God's love lives in you. It might have something to do with kindness, unselfishness, service, grace. What

have you said or done lately that might cause the recipient or an innocent bystander to say, “This is a child of God. God’s love surely lives in them.”

John goes on to speak about Jesus coming into a world that did not know him. Jesus’ own people did not accept him. But there were some who did believe him, and to them he gave the power to become children of God.

I want you to never forget this verse.....John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Theologian Herb O’Driscoll writes: “These 8 words contain the core claim of Christian faith. Without this truth, our lives would be empty.”

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

As your pastor, every time I hear stories of you calling someone, just to check up on them, to see if they are doing ok;

Every time I hear stories of you offering someone a ride, or a meal, or an act of kindness;

Every time I see you going over to speaking to someone who is standing alone at coffee hour;

Every time I hear of you supporting mission work;.

Every time I hear that you have been praying for someone;

Every time I hear of you sharing your time, or talent, or treasure; I am reminded that the Word has become flesh and dwells among us. The light of God's love is shining through you.....it is your testimony to the truth and power and grace of that Light.

This passage from the opening of the Book of John with the concluding thoughts that John emphasizes that the one who comes after him is above him. John is preparing the way, preparing hearts to receive Him. John says, from Him we have received grace upon grace. It is true that the law comes from Moses but it is Christ who brings grace and truth.

No one has seen God. It is His Son who is close to the Father's heart, it is through Christ that we see God.

Grace upon grace. To whom are you willing to offer that grace this week and the weeks to come.

God bless you, today and all the days of your life

Amen