

## *“The Picture of Embodied Grace – God Became Man”*

*John 1:1-18*

### *The Coming Reign of Grace*

Last week we noted a birthing virgin and a powerful Rabbi. Christ brought a liberating message and a piercing light. As we continue to look at the coming reign of grace, I would like us to consider the picture of embodied grace.

#### I. The proclamation of grace.

John’s gospel opens with a dramatic statement concerning his subject matter, “In the beginning was the Word . . .” There can be no doubt that John is intentionally paralleling the opening statements of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created . . .

John continues by painting for us a picture of grace.

#### II. The picture of grace

With several sweeping assertions, He marks his subject matter with certain inescapable qualifiers.

- The Word that verbalizes and articulates in striking imagery reveals the invisible (v.1).
- God in one word captures all that eludes our ability to comprehend (v.1).
- The Eternal one in whom all things exist and within whom contains the means for His own perpetuation of being (v.2).
- The Creator of all things from whom, through whom, and to whom all things exist (v.3).
- The Life that imparts life and generates the essence of life (v.4).
- The Light in whose presence there is no darkness at all (vv. 4, 5, 9).

John does not stop here. In one earth-shattering blast, John says, “And the Word became flesh . . .” How does God become man? Why does God become man? What moves God to become man? Such questions as these stand as portals inviting us enter into a mystery that eternity cannot unfold.

John continues by showing us the plethora (*overabundance*) of grace.

#### III. The plethora of grace.

Grace exceeds the need. It removes any trace of the offense - Nothing is left. The opulence or lavishness with which God’s blessings are showered upon us is found in the coming of Christ.

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Friend, God is so “wastefully extravagant” that He became flesh.

The last point John makes is found in verses 5, 10, and 11.

#### IV. The presenting of grace.

Now notice with me John’s tone as he introduces a thought that appears as incredible as his earlier statements.

We are born into the family of God, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, BUT OF GOD.

Tom Vell Ministries