

## **John 1:1-18**

### **Advent 3 Joy**

#### **1. What are the claims made about the 'Word'?**

##### **A. He is Divine.**

**Vs 1-3.** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- i.** The 'Word' is in some sense seen as distinct from God – 'the Word was with God'.
- ii.** However the 'Word' is also so united with God that he can be described as 'God' – 'the Word was God'.
- iii.** The 'Word' has a key role in creation – vs. 3. (see also Col. 1:16ff).
- iv.** John's gospel starts with a very clear affirmation of the full divinity of the Word who became a human being, without ceasing to be divine. His divinity is revealed through John's Gospel.

##### **B. He is Human.**

- i.** This divine Word truly became human 'The Word became flesh (human) and made his dwelling among us' (v. 14).
- ii.** The rest of the Gospel of John introduces us to this man Jesus Christ as he interacts with people of his generation.

#### **2. How did people respond to him and what were the consequences?**

- i.** John tells his readers that although this divine/human One 'was in the world' people did not recognise him, his own did not receive him. (v. 10-11).
- ii.** 'His own' seem to be his own Jewish people, many of whom did not receive him, although some did.

**Reflection/Response.** Why did some receive him, but many did not? God has made us His children through Jesus as we believe in him, (Vv. 12-13) and has given us His Spirit as a guarantee that we are His children (Eph. 1:13-14), how do we show we are we are His grateful children?

**3. The One who became man is recognised as the glorious One and Only who came from the Father (v. 14).**

**4. Responding to God's grace.**

V. 15-16. 'Out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace'. This is meant to be a living reality for those who believe in Jesus.

**5. God makes Himself know.**

Jesus Christ who is 'God the One and Only', has made God known (Jn. 6:46).

**Reflection/Response.** How do we respond to God's grace? What stops 'Christ being formed in us' (Gal. 4:19) or in other words, us becoming more and more like Christ?

How do we celebrate the joy of God the Son coming to earth and the assurance of his coming again?

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