

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?

BB