

HOW COULD GOD BECOME HUMAN and WHY WOULD HE?

“What is consciousness?” ➡ Where is it?

Can you explain it?

“What is energy / electricity?” 1 Pe 3.15

Do you believe in it?

We regularly believe realities that we cannot completely explain because THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE REAL.

Not knowing exactly HOW something happened
does not mean we have NO REASON to believe THAT IT HAPPENED.

THE MYSTERY AND MERCY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1–14

We may not be able to EXPLAIN every mystery of HOW
God became man, but Scripture gives us EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE
that He did — AND TELLS US WHY HE CAME.

NOT UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING IS NOT THE SAME
AS HAVING NO REASON TO BELIEVE

1 of the greatest truths in the Bible: the eternal God entered His own creation

The Son of God became Truly Human without ceasing to be Truly God.

John 1:1, 14 — “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

1 Timothy 3:16 — “Great is the **MYSTERY** of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh....”

◆◆ THE BIBLE ITSELF CALLS THIS A MYSTERY.

MYSTERY does not mean **contradiction**, and it does not mean **fantasy**.
It means a **TRUTH** that is GREATER than our ability to fully comprehend

◆ The deeper question is not only, “HOW could God become human?”
The more astonishing question is: “**WHY would He become human for us?**”

PRAY

I. THE INCARNATION IS A MYSTERY, BUT IT IS NOT A CONTRADICTION

- Some people hear the Christian claim that Jesus is fully God and fully man and immediately say, “That is impossible.”
- But Scripture is not saying that Jesus is one person and two persons at the same time, or that He is God and not God in the same sense.
- The Bible teaches that the **eternal Son is one divine Person** who took to Himself a true human nature.
- He did not stop being God.
- He did not merely appear to be human. ⇨⇨ He truly became man.

Philippians 2:6–8 — Christ, existing in the form of God, “made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant,** and **coming in the likeness of men....** He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death.”

Col 2:9 — “For **in Him dwells all the fullness** of the Godhead bodily.”

Heb 2:14 — “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, **He Himself likewise shared in the same....**”

A. God did not become LESS THAN GOD

When the Son became man, He did not surrender His deity.

He remained what He eternally was — God.

Yet He took a **real human body** and a **real human nature.**

Jesus could become tired because He was truly human.

He could hunger • He could thirst • He could suffer • He could die physically

Yet He could also forgive sins, receive worship, command the sea, and speak of the glory He shared with the Father before the world existed.

John 17:5 — Jesus prayed, “Glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

B. The Bible tells us the **MANNER** of His human entrance

Scripture does not explain the incarnation as a biological process we can reproduce or analyze in a laboratory ➡ it was a unique act of God.

Luke 1:34–35 — Mary asked, “**HOW CAN THIS BE...?**”

The angel answered that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and “that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

The answer to Mary’s “**How?**” was not a complete scientific explanation. It was a divine explanation: **God Himself would act.**

Faith must refuse TWO OPPOSITE ERRORS:

- We must not pretend we can explain what God has not explained, and we must not reject what God has clearly revealed ➡ **simply because it is beyond us.**

WE USE REALITIES WE CANNOT FULLY EXPLAIN: LIGHT, YOUR MIND*

- You do not need to understand the deepest nature of electricity before you turn on a light.
- You do not need to solve the mystery of consciousness before you know **that you are thinking.**
- ◆ **In the same way**, the Christian does not say, “I can explain every mystery of the incarnation.” ➡ We say, “God has acted in history, & the biblical evidence points us to JC”

- Do not confuse the limits of your understanding with the limits of God's power.
- Do not demand that **God fit inside your mind** before you are willing to believe Him.
- **At the same time, biblical faith is not blind.**
Examine the claims of Christ, His life, His words, His death, & His resurrection
- When Scripture speaks clearly, **humility says:** "I may not understand everything, but I will believe what God has revealed."

II. THE INCARNATION MEANS THAT GOD REALLY CAME NEAR

Mt 1:23 *"They shall call His name Immanuel," which means, "God with us."*

- All "Religion" is the attempt of man trying to reach God.
- The **GOSPEL** is the announcement that **GOD CAME TO US.**

THE CREATOR ENTERED HIS CREATION.

- The One who made the stars entered a world in which He would sleep beneath those stars.
- The One who gives life to every person accepted a human body.
- The One whom heaven cannot contain was carried in Mary's womb and laid in a manger.

The "Word" (Jn 1.1) did not merely visit us.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Jesus Christ came into our world of weakness, sorrow, temptation, rejection, pain, and death.

- ◆ God who created the world ➡ entered it deliberately.

John 1:3 — *"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

If you have ever thought, “God is far away and does not understand what life here is like,” ➡ **look at Jesus.**

Heb 4:15 — We have a High Priest who can “sympathize with our weaknesses,” and who was “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Jesus does not understand suffering **from a distance**. • He knew hunger, exhaustion, grief, rejection, betrayal, injustice, physical pain, and death.

This does not mean that He experienced every exact circumstance you have experienced. • It means that **the sinless Son of God truly entered the human condition** and **IS ABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH HIS PEOPLE.**

III. WHY DID GOD BECOME HUMAN? — TO REVEAL GOD TO US

John 1:18 — “No one has seen God at any time.

The only begotten Son...He has declared Him.”

John 14:9 — Jesus said, “**He who has seen Me has seen the Father.**”

- *If you want to know what God is like, **look at Jesus Christ.***
- In Him we see the holiness of God, the compassion of God, the truth of God, the righteousness of God, and the grace of God.
- Jesus did not merely bring a message from God.
- **HE IS GOD THE SON WHO CAME TO MAKE THE FATHER KNOWN.**

Hebrews 1:3 — The Son is “the brightness of His glory and the **express image*** of His person.”

Do not build your idea of God from your feelings, your culture, your family background, or another religion’s description.

◆ **Look at Christ as He is revealed in Scripture.**

➤ When Jesus **welcomes repentant sinners,** we see God’s grace.

- When Jesus **confronts hypocrisy**, we see God's holiness.
- When Jesus **weeps at Lazarus's tomb**, we see His compassion.
- When Jesus goes **willingly to the cross**, we see the love of God.

IV. WHY DID GOD BECOME HUMAN? — **TO DIE IN OUR PLACE**

This is where **THE INCARNATION** moves from **MYSTERY TO MERCY.**

God did not become man merely to show us *what a good life looks like.*

◆◆◆ **Luke 19.10** ➡➡ **He came to rescue sinners**

Gal 4:4–5 — “When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman... to redeem those who were under the law.”

Mt 1:21 You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins

A. TO DIE, He TRULY had to become man

God, in His divine nature, is immortal **But the Son took a real human nature**

➡ **SO THAT** He could truly suffer and **die as our substitute.**

Heb 2:14 — Since we are human, with *flesh and blood*, **JESUS ALSO BECAME TRULY HUMAN** so that *through His death He could defeat the devil and the power of death.*

- The cross is not an accident after Bethlehem.
- The manger was part of the road to the cross.

Jesus was born to die

B. TO REPRESENT US, He had to be TRULY human

Rom 5:19 — “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by **one Man's obedience** many will be made righteous.”

- Where Adam disobeyed, **Christ obeyed.**
- Where we have sinned, **Christ remained without sin.**
- He could stand in the place of sinners because He truly became one of us, yet without sharing our sin.

C. TO SAVE US, He had to be SINLESS

2 Cor 5:21 — God made Christ, “**who knew no sin**, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

1 Peter 3:18 — “Christ also suffered once for sins, **the just for the unjust**, that He might bring us to God.”

Jesus did not die for His own sins. • He had none. • He died for ours.

SUBSTITUTION: the Just for the unjust; the Sinless One for sinners; the Shepherd for the sheep.

ILLUSTRATION — THE DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY

- Imagine that you owe a debt so great that you could work the rest of your life and never pay it.
- The judge does not simply ignore the debt.
- ◆ Someone with the right to pay it steps forward & pays it completely for you

Our sin is not merely a mistake that God pretends not to see.

Christ bore the judgment our sin deserved.

At the cross, **God remained just** while providing salvation for the guilty.

Rom 3:26 God is “just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

APPLICATION TO THE UNSAVED

- Our greatest problem **is not** that we need more religion, more self-confidence, or a better version of ourselves.
- **Our greatest problem** is our sin before a holy and just God.
 - ◆ **And your greatest need is not to save yourself.**

IT IS TO BE SAVED BY THE ONE WHO CAME FOR YOU.

Jn 3:16 — “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Turn from your sin. Stop trusting your goodness, your religion, your baptism, your family, or your works.

Trust Jesus Christ — God the Son who became man, died for sinners, and rose again.

V. WHY DID GOD BECOME HUMAN?

— TO BECOME **OUR PERFECT MEDIATOR AND HIGH PRIEST**

1 Tim 2:5 — *“There is **one God and one Mediator** between God & men, the Man Christ Jesus.”*

- A mediator stands between two parties to bring reconciliation.
- Jesus is uniquely qualified because **He is truly God and truly man.**
- He brings God to us, and He brings us to God.

Heb 2:17 — *He was made like His brethren
“that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest
... to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*

Hebrews 4:16 — *Because of Him, believers may
“come boldly to the throne of grace.”*

APPLICATION TO BELIEVERS

- When you fail, do not run away from Christ ➡ Run to your High Priest
- When you suffer, remember that **Jesus is not indifferent** to human weakness
- When you pray, come through Christ
— not because you are worthy, **but because He is.**
- When Satan accuses you, remember that your acceptance with God rests in Christ, not in your performance.

VI. THE INCARNATION CHANGES YOUR **PAST**, YOUR **PRESENT**, AND YOUR **ETERNITY**

A. IT CHANGES YOUR PAST — your sins can be forgiven

Colossians 2:13–14 — *God forgives believers and cancels the record of debt that stood against them.*

- You cannot rewrite your past, **but Christ can forgive it.**
- He does not merely help you cope with guilt.
- Through His cross, He can remove your guilt before God.

B. IT CHANGES YOUR PRESENT — God is with you & Christ lives for you

Romans 8:34 — *Christ “died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”*

- ◆ The Jesus who entered this world, died, & rose again is not a memory
- **He is the living Lord.**
- *The believer is not following a dead teacher **but trusting a living Savior***

C. IT CHANGES YOUR ETERNITY — death does not have the final word

John 11:25–26 — *Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*

Because the **Son of God truly became man, truly died, and truly rose bodily from the grave**, the believer has a living hope beyond death.

THE RESCUER CAME ALL THE WAY DOWN

If someone is trapped at the bottom of a deep pit, advice shouted from the top is not enough. • The trapped person needs a rescuer who can reach him and bring him out.

- **Human religion** often sounds like instructions shouted upward: “Climb higher. Try harder. Become better.”

- **The GOSPEL announces something radically different:**



THE RESCUER CAME DOWN.

Jesus entered our world, took our humanity, bore our sin, conquered death, and brings sinners to God.

VII. THE EVIDENCE CALLS FOR A RESPONSE

- The incarnation is not a puzzle placed in the Bible merely to make us think
- **It is a truth that demands a response.**

John wrote his Gospel so that we would not merely admire Jesus,
⇒ **but believe in Him.**

Jn 20:31 — “These are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

You may still have questions.

Christianity does not require you to pretend that difficult questions are easy

- But do not make this mistake: “*I cannot explain every mystery, therefore it cannot be true.*”

Ask instead: What explanation best makes sense of Jesus Christ:
His identity, His teaching, His sinless life, His fulfillment of Scripture, His death, and especially His resurrection?

**Faith in Christ is NOT believing without evidence.
It is trusting the Person to whom the evidence points.**

FOR THE RELIGIOUS BUT UNSAVED

- Perhaps you believe Jesus existed.
- Perhaps you believe He was born of a virgin, died on a cross, & rose again.
- ◆ **But biblical faith is more than agreeing with facts.**

◆ **Have you Personally turned from your sin & trusted Him as your Savior?**

Acts 16:31 — “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*”

FOR THE BELIEVER The incarnation should produce worship, humility, confidence, and obedience.

Phil 2:5 — “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

IF the Son of God humbled Himself for us, HOW can we cling proudly to position, recognition, comfort, or our own way?

◆ If He came all the way from heaven’s glory into our suffering world, we should be willing To Go Wherever He sends us with His gospel.

CONCLUSION — THE GREATER QUESTION IS “WHY?”

• How could God become human? • We cannot explain every mystery of it.

◆ Scripture itself says, **“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.”** 1 Tim 3.16

But we know what God has revealed:

- *The eternal Word was God.*
- *The Word became flesh.*
- *Jesus Christ is fully God and truly man.*
- *He came to reveal the Father.*
- *He came to identify with us without sin.*
- *He came to die in the place of sinners.*
- *He rose again and lives as our Savior, Mediator, and Lord.*

But the question that should move our hearts is not only, **“How could He come?”** ➡ It is, **“WHY WOULD HE COME?”**

HE CAME BECAUSE WE COULD NOT RESCUE OURSELVES.

- ◆ He came because sin separated us from God.
- ◆ He came because love moved Him toward sinners.
- ◆ He came to bring us back to God.

Rom 5:8 — “God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us.**”

Not being able to explain **HOW** God became human
is not the same as having no reason to believe **THAT** He did.

And once you see WHY Jesus Christ died, everything changes.

- Your ***past*** can be forgiven.
- Your ***present*** can be lived with Christ.
- Your ***eternity*** can be secure in Him.

FINAL INVITATION

If you have never trusted Christ, **come to Him today.** • *You do not need to understand every mystery before you can trust the Savior.*

• **You need to understand your sin, His sufficiency, and His invitation.**

◆ Turn from your sin and trust Jesus Christ — the eternal Son of God
who became man, died in your place, and rose again.

John 1:12 — “As many as ***received Him,*** ***to them He gave the right to become children of God,*** ***to those who believe in His name.***”

And if you already belong to Christ, worship Him with renewed wonder.

- The only God and Creator who made you **CAME FOR YOU.**
 - The Lord of glory **HUMBLED HIMSELF FOR YOU.**
 - The Savior who died for you **NOW LIVES FOR YOU.**

THE INCARNATION IS A MYSTERY — BUT IT IS ALSO MERCY.

GOD CAME NEAR so that sinners COULD BE BROUGHT NEAR TO GOD.

JESUS ENTERED HIS CREATION TO RESCUE US.