

# The Gospel According to John

## “Receive Jesus as He Is”

John 1:14-18



## **John 1:14-15**

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,  
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten  
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testified about Him and cried out, saying,  
“This was He of whom I said,  
‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I,  
for He existed before me.’”

# **John 1:16-18**

For of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace upon grace.

For the Law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

No one has seen God at any time;  
the only begotten God who is in the bosom  
of the Father, He has explained Him.

## Main Idea

Those who receive Jesus  
must receive Him as He is  
and must receive *from* Him  
what He intends to give.

# Receiving Jesus

## Who is Jesus?



**Who is Jesus?**

He is God *enfleshed*.

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Note carefully that John does not say that  
the Word “took on” flesh or that He was  
“embodied” or that He became “a man”.

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What is *Christian* belief about God?

God is three persons in one nature.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each distinct *Persons* in the Godhead.

Yet they are the same in substance meaning that God is *one God in nature*.

What is *Christian* belief about Jesus?

Jesus is one person with two natures.

Jesus is in nature fully God,  
*and* He is in nature fully man.

Yet he is *one person*, Jesus the Christ.

# Who is Jesus?

He is God enfleshed.

He is the one and only  
from the Father.

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# This parallels “with God”

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# This also parallels “with God”

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of the Father**, He has explained Him.

Though Jesus in His humanity was clearly born as  
a unique Son of the Father, this statement removes  
any question about whether John believed  
the Word to have been created or born.

Jesus is the eternal Son of God,  
eternally in communion with the  
Father, and eternally one with Him.

# Who is Jesus?

He is God enfleshed.

He is the one and only from the Father.

He is the pre-existent  
and pre-eminent one.



## **John 1:15**

John testified about Him and cried out, saying,  
“This was He of whom I said,  
*‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I,  
for He existed before me.’”*

Literally...

“He who comes after me, has come to be before me,  
because he was first of me.”

# In order of birth and ministry

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# In order of existence

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# In order of eminence!

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“This was He of whom I said,  
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Literally...

“He who comes **after me**, has come to be **before me**,  
because he was **first of me**.”

Believing Jesus to be the sovereign Lord, the one and only pre-eminent One, will fundamentally change how you receive Him.

# Receiving Jesus

Who is Jesus?

What did He come to do?



**What did He come to do?**

He came to reveal the glory of God to us.

## **John 1:14**

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Jesus was the tent of God pitched  
in the midst of His people upon  
which God's glory descends!

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This looks back to God's revelation  
of His glory to Moses in Exodus 34:6.

## John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and *He tabernacled* among us,  
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten

from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

## Exodus 34:6

The LORD, the LORD God...  
abounding in lovingkindness and truth.



## John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and *He tabernacled* among us,  
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten

from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

## Exodus 34:6

The LORD, the LORD God...  
abounding in ***(full of)*** lovingkindness and truth.

Jesus came into the world to manifest  
the glory of God's character to us!

# **Note John's summary statement:**

**John 1:18**

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of the Father, He **has explained Him.**

**Hebrews 1:3**

And He is the radiance of His glory  
and the exact representation of His nature...

# **What did He come to do?**

He came to reveal the glory of God to us.

**He came to fulfill the Law for us.**

**John 1:16-17**

*Because, of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace upon grace.*

*Because the Law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

# What does this mean?

John 1:16-17

Because, of His fullness we have all received,  
and **grace upon grace.**

Because the Law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.



# We must keep this in context!

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## **What is the connection?**

# The Connection?

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# The Connection?

John 1:16-17

Because, **of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace coming upon grace.**

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Because, of His fullness we have all received,  
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# The Connection?

**John 1:16-17**

Because, of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace coming upon grace.

**Because the Law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth *came to be*  
through Jesus Christ.**



John is not intending to pit the Law  
against grace and truth.

He is explaining the fullness of Christ  
from which we have received.

# Note what Jesus says...

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  
I did not come to abolish **but to fulfill.**”

Jesus came to fulfill the grace of the Law  
by graciously fulfilling the Law *for us!*

# What did He come to do?

He came to reveal the glory of God to us.

He came to fulfill the Law for us.

He came to *bestow* grace upon us.

John 1:16-17

Because, **of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace coming upon grace.**

All His own have received from Him  
grace coming upon grace.

# What role does Law play?

The Law explains righteousness  
*but* has no power to produce it.

The Law cannot give grace,  
but it is an instrument of grace in  
that it shows us our *need* for grace.

## John 1:16-17

Because, of His fullness we have all received,  
and grace coming upon grace.  
Because the Law was given through Moses;

**grace and truth *came to be*  
through Jesus Christ.**

Jesus came *as* the grace gift to bestow  
the gift of grace upon His people!

Knowing what Jesus came to do  
will fundamentally change what  
it means to receive Him.

# Receiving Jesus

Who is Jesus?

What did He come to do?

## What, then, does it mean to receive Him?





# **What does it mean to receive Him?**

It means to believe that He is  
the sovereign LORD.

John 1:14

And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us,  
and **we saw His glory**, glory as of the only begotten  
from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

John declares that Jesus is the eternal Word,  
the glory of God, **Yahweh** in the flesh.

## Note Well!

You have not received Jesus  
if you have not believed that  
He is *the* Sovereign LORD!

# **What does it mean to receive Him?**

It means to believe that He is the sovereign Lord.

It means to trust in His saving grace.

**John 1:16-17**

Because, **of His fullness we have all received**,  
and grace coming upon grace.

**What is it that we have received?**

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What is it that we have received?

## John 1:16-17

Because, of His fullness we have all received,

and **grace coming upon grace.**

Jesus came to bestow grace upon a helpless,  
destitute, and condemned people.

## Note Well!

You have not received Jesus  
if you have not received from Him  
the grace *that He* came to give you!



# What does it mean to receive Him?

It means to believe that He is the sovereign Lord.

It means to trust in His saving grace.

It means to gladly welcome His rule.

# Remember?

John 1:14

And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us,  
and **we saw His glory**, glory as of the only begotten  
from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

*Jesus is the sovereign LORD!*

## Note Well!

You have not *received* Jesus if you have not thrown off your commitment to self-rule, gladly welcoming ***His*** rule over all of your life.

# Concluding Questions

Have you received Jesus *as His is*  
or as you have made Him to be?

Have you gladly received Him as the one  
who governs every aspect of your life,  
or have you simply incorporated Him  
into the life that you are governing?