

God created us for life with Himself, to be a people in relationship with Him. But when we listened to Satan instead of God:

we lost our spiritual glory, exposing our flesh.

Jesus gave up His glory to come into our flesh.

We wounded creation, Jesus came to re-create it new.

We gave away our vice-regent rule over creation to Satan.

Jesus overthrows Satan. All authority in heaven & on earth is given to Him & He devolves it to those who trust in Him.

We lost our intimate relationship with God.

Through Jesus, God restores our relationship with Himself.

God, in the Son, took on our image as the way to restore us to what we were meant to be: *children born of God*. All who trust in Him will be utterly re-made in God's image & likeness.

Since our exile from Eden God's relationship with us is a history in four parts:

preparing the way for the coming of Christ;

the coming of Christ;

the gospel-ling of the good news of Christ

– the part in which we live – and

the future coming of Christ to bring in the new creation

in which God will again dwell with His people and His people with Him, for this old broken order of things will be no more.

Jesus came into the world, Immanuel, God with God, man with man, to give the right to all who trust in Him to become children of God. Sadly many prefer to live in the darkness, and in that darkness perish, nonetheless the Light came to shine for everyone.

Please give praise to God for He, *"has made His light shine in your heart to give you the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. [2 Cor 4:6]"* **And also pray** that God will shine His light into the hearts of others, so they too may enter the Kingdom of the Son He loves.

*Let's Read the Bible! John 1:1-4 plus
No 6 in our occasional series*

Introduction

John 1:1-4, indeed all through to verse 18, contains some of the most vital words in the entire Bible. They offer deep insight into the truth of Jesus Christ, and the Gospel message.

Firstly, Jesus is God.

Go with me slowly here. Jesus is not a god, as some say, as if there is The God, whom Jesus calls Father, and Jesus is some sort of subordinate deity. John is saying what Mark, Matthew, and Luke all say: Christ Jesus is God.

It's revealed in His baptism when God calls Him His beloved Son and pours out His Spirit upon Him – not to adopt Him as His Son, but to initiate His mission to save the world. God acting together.

It's there in the temptations. You can't be tempted to do something you cannot do. If you are dumb there's no point in tempting you to condemn others with words. You can't do it. There was no point to Satan tempting Jesus to turn stones into bread if He could not do it. But as God He could, for *through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made*.

It's there in His forgiveness of sins, for who, as His enemies complained, can forgive sins, except God?

It's there in the healing of the little girl, the widow's son, the man Lazarus, in the simple speaking of an active word: *Little girl, I say to you, get up!; Young man, I say to you, rise!; Lazarus, come forth*.

It's there in Christ's power over creation, in the stilling of the storm, in the feeding of the hungry thousands, in inviting Peter to walk on the water. And it's there in His teaching because in it, from the very

declaration of the Kingdom of God, He was saying here is the King.

And it's there in the "I am" statements in John's gospel, where Jesus says: *I am the bread of life; the light of the world; the door of the sheep; the Good Shepherd; the resurrection and the life; the way, and the truth and the life, and the true vine.*

The words 'I am' were sacred to the Jews as the very words God used to describe Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:13-14. It's Christ's use of this phrase which causes some to try to stone Him [John 8:58] and to condemn Him to death. [Mark 14:61-64]

Secondly, Jesus is God with God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Our word 'with' lacks some of the depth of the original, which expresses a sense of togetherness, less like two being side by side and more like two dancing, moving towards together in being. Jesus as He constantly tells us, only said what His Father wanted Him to say and only did what His Father wanted Him to do.

John's opening words should remind us of Genesis 1.1:
In the beginning God ,,,,,

Before our beginning God already existed.
And then, in the beginning, what did God do?
He created.

And how did He create, He spoke:
Gen 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light...".
And what happened? There was light.

God's word had an active, creating, making power.

And what did Jesus do?
He spoke and people were set free from the power of evil.
He spoke and creation obeyed.
He spoke and people's sins were forgiven.
He spoke and sickness was healed.
He spoke and the dead were raised.

Christ's word had an active, creating, making power.

"Through [Jesus] all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made." This is a God statement.

What 2 things was God best known for in the Old Testament?

The Exodus – the rescue of His people from the evil of Egypt.
But even more importantly: creation.

God is the Creator, as celebrated for example in Psalm 8.
Jesus as John here and Paul in Colossians 1:16-17, and the Bible elsewhere state: Jesus is Creator with God.

Sometimes when people are told that God created, they ask, and "Who created God?" The question is not as wise as they surmise, for the truth of God is that He has life in Himself. God, by definition is the source of all life. John now tells us that this applies to Jesus also: *In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

When God says in Genesis 1, verse 26. "Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness ..." who was He talking to?

There was no one but Himself and the angels.
But the angels great as they are have no creative power.
They are servants of God not His equals.
He was not making man in their image – we do not have wings, or multiple eyes etc as is revealed of some angels.
We are made in His image and likeness.

God was conferring with Himself. Here in these words is the hint of what we discover in the Gospels: there is only One God, who is not a simple unity, but a community: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At the climax of creation, in the very special matter of the making of humanity, God consults with Himself. And having deliberated in Himself together the Father [referred to in the New Testament as God] through Christ the Son makes humanity in His own image and likeness, empowering us with the breath of life by the Spirit.

And here is a thing to ponder. In the Gospel event, Christ becomes like us: the Word becomes flesh. **The Word in whose image we are made, takes on our image! What's going on?**