

John 1:14-28 – The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-5 introduced us to the Word who was with God in the beginning and who was God. The doctrine of the Trinity states that God is One and yet three distinct persons. God the Father is God. God the Son is God. God the Holy Spirit is God. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In John 1:3 we learn that all things came into being through the Word, God the Son. This shows the unity of the Father and the Son. In John 1:14 we see the importance of the distinction between the persons of the trinity. The Word, God the Son, became flesh. God the Father did not become flesh. God the Holy Spirit did not become flesh. Now we are confronted with the question, “How is the Word, Jesus, both God and man? It takes the whole of scripture to answer that question but John gives us some key pieces to the puzzle.



Read John 1:14-18.

In verse 14, what does it mean by “the Word became flesh”?

In verse 14, some translations have “tabernacled among us” for “dwelt among us”. The corresponding noun to this verb sometimes has the meaning “tent” or “booth”. In John 2 Jesus spoke of his body as a temple. How is Jesus’ body like the tabernacle which God had Moses build?

The words “grace and truth” occur in verse 14 and again in verse 17. How was Jesus full of grace and truth? What is the significance of the contrast between the law given through Moses and the grace and truth which came through Jesus.

In case we didn’t know who John was talking about, we see in verse 17 that he is talking about Jesus Christ. Note that this is the first mention of the name “Jesus” in the book. He does not hesitate to include Jesus’ title, “Christ”. Christ means that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah.

What did John the Baptist testify about Jesus in verse 15? What else do we learn about Jesus in verses 14-18?

Read John 1:19-28.

Remember that John the Baptist's father was a priest and his mother was from the daughters of Aaron. Who was sent to question John? What group was behind the inquiries?

What did the priests and Levites want to know about John the Baptist?

In verses 20 and 21 John definitively said that he was not any of the people they thought he might be (or at least might claim to be). Who were these three people?

In verse 23, what did John say about himself?

In verse 27 what did John say about Jesus?

I'm not sure why the questioners of John thought that the Christ would baptize with water. John declared that he did baptize with water and then he directed their attention to Jesus. Later John proclaimed that he baptized with water but that Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit.

What can we learn from John the Baptist about being witnesses of Jesus?