

Our Immanuel: God with us

John 1:16-18

Introduction

We are all familiar with the term *Emmanuel* in the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 8:10). Jesus does the unexpected through the incarnation and dwells amongst us in human flesh. There's the baby Jesus, the God with us. But the idea that the triune God desired to dwell among us isn't new to Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus. That was always God's intention. God's purpose for mankind as stated in **Leviticus 26:11-12** is "I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people."

The problem is that Adam rejected the Word of God and God himself, reverting back to his pre-created condition; dark, chaotic and empty. God loved us too much to leave us in our dead state of estrangement, darkness, chaos and emptiness. So, the Father gives us the Son who gives us the Father and together they give us the Spirit to fill us with the fullness of God. The Father's love and grace overflow us. Jesus is the light and life of Men. The Spirit unites us to the Triune God increasing the life and light of Jesus in each of us.

The Father gave us the Son

We are in deep and desperate need. The Father so loved the world that he gave...(John 3:16) and "he who did not spare His own son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also with Him give us all things" (Romans 8:32). God didn't just send His son to be with us for a while but to alter the permanent, every day way we live. Jesus gives us everything we need for a godly life (2 Peter 1:3) and "my God will supply every need of yours," (Philippians 4:19). We are wracked with darkness, chaos and emptiness so God the father, who is love, gives us Jesus to fill us with light, life, purpose and love.

To give us the Father

Jesus, as the son, reveals the loving, doting Father. The gospels record a lifelong conversation between Jesus and the Father in which we see the tenderness and affection between them. Jesus makes us sons of God so that we too might be God's children (John 1:12-13) in whom He is well pleased (Matthew 3:17) and experience that same tenderness and affection.

And Together they give us the Spirit

Jesus eliminates the barrier of Sin so that the Spirit of God can dwell in cleansed hearts (Ephesians 3:16, 22). The Spirit of God eliminates the barrier of time and space so that the Father and Son can dwell within us forever (Ephesians 2:22). The Spirit of God is the life of God in men. The Spirit gives us understanding (light) (1John 2:20). The Spirit unites us to the Triune God.

Conclusion

Don't be satisfied with the trappings of Christianity. Don't settle for an assumed understanding of the deep mysteries. Unwrap the gifts under the tree of life; they are too numerous and remarkable to ignore. The fullness of God is offered for all of us in Christ. Are you in need? If not, repent. If so, let the love of the Father, the fullness of Jesus and the life of the Spirit satisfy your every need.