

John 1:1-18  
January 5, 2020

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

There is much we simply don't know about God and for thousands of years humans have been speculating about who God is, how God acts, what God is up to, what God looks like, and when certain things happen if they are really God's doing or not. Like a puzzle, we want to find all the pieces and put them together so we can finally bring to conclusion the full picture. The truth is there will always be things about God we don't know in this life - a hidden and mysterious nature of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With that said, John's text today reveals several aspects of just exactly who God is.

For instance, God is a relational God. This text explains God's ongoing faithful relationship with creation as God is born of flesh and blood and enters into creation as a human being. Our text also illustrates an intimate relationship of Father and Son, God and Word. The Word was always with God, and is fully God. It is a relationship intertwined in bringing new life or light into the world. It is a relationship marked by grace and truth. It is a relationship of love between Parent and Child. In this beautiful picture we are given an image of a God who holds the Son close to the Father's heart (v. 18) or "bosom" as the text could also be translated. In Jesus Christ, we are given the lovely, caring, and nurturing image of God cradling the Son in God's chest.

Jesus is the revelation of God in flesh and blood. He is the true image of the Father. In Him, we see God's nature and what it means to be created in the image of God. Not in the physical image of Jesus but in how He acts, his teaching, his love for the poor, the oppressed, the sick, and all in need. It is Jesus who interprets and reveals a God who will go to any and all lengths to be in relation with God's creation including being born of flesh and blood and dying on a cross. Jesus reveals to us a God full of grace, truth and love. Jesus makes known a God of forgiveness and reconciliation, as he will state later on in John, "For I came not to judge the world but to save the world."

Jesus illuminates for the world who He is and who God is and this is what John is concerned with. He relentlessly tells the story of Jesus Christ and documents a picture of his life, his ministry, and his actions so that all who hear of them may come to know and believe Him. Believe in the One who sent him into the world.

We have witnessed the light and like John we are called to testify to that light. We are called to witness to the Word's presence in the world. Many don't know of God's grace and truth. Many don't believe in Jesus. We, ourselves, at times may question God's existence but through the power of the Spirit we are given the ability to see the light of Christ. The incarnation of the Word in Jesus of Nazareth continues to meet us daily: in the sacraments, in the written living word of God (Bible), in the beauty of God's creation around us, in the stranger on the street, in the words of friends and loved ones, in the hymns we sing, and in the prayers we pray.

While the puzzle of God will never fully be complete until Christ's return, the Word incarnate continues to be present, to make God known, and to reveal God's heart. We need look nowhere else but to Jesus Christ to see God!

Where has God made Godself known to you through the Word made flesh? When has the Light shined into the midst of your darkness and equipped you to see you are not alone? How have experienced the "grace upon grace" given through Jesus Christ?