

Why God Became Man

November 30, 2014

DAY 1: Taking humans from being dead to being made alive

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1. Paul begins this verse by referring to Adam, Adam's rebellion, and the consequences of that rebellion. Next to each of the words below, jot down what "death" would mean in that realm:

a. Physically--

b. Spiritually--

c. Personally--

d. Relationally--

e. Destiny--

2. Paul's second clause is not about Adam, but about Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus was both fully divine and fully human. Paul, here, focuses on Christ's humanity: "By a man has come also the resurrection of the dead." Why do you think Paul focuses on Christ's humanity and His resurrection from the dead?

3. Paul's last phrase, "*in Christ shall all be made alive*" is the point of these verses. What would we look like if we are made alive in Christ?

a. Physically--

b. Spiritually--

c. Personally--

d. Relationally--

e. Destiny--

4. Which of these areas of life do you see God at work, "making you alive?"

DAY 2: Jesus, living our righteousness, taking our death penalty

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1. These verses describe why it was important that our Savior be both fully man and fully divine.

2. Sin entered the world through men (Adam). Justice required that sin should be dealt with by a man. Why would this be important? Why was it important that our Savior be fully man?

3. The dilemma is this: how could ANY human being born ever qualify to vanquish sin?! Consider the tarnish of original sin and our inherent powerlessness to overcome it through our own efforts. Given that every person born of a woman is born with a sin nature, why is the Virgin Birth so important to this discussion?

4. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life. How would this fact qualify Him to be our Savior?

5. We also deserved to die for our sins...

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

*Romans 6:23 For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

6. Perhaps you've not pondered this much. Your sin and my sin deserve death! Where does your mind go with that thought?

7. Jesus Christ is the only one that could also take **your** death upon Himself. Where does your mind and heart go with *that* thought?

8. Putting this together:

* He has fulfilled the righteousness we spurned and borne the judgment we deserved.

* He has the power for righteousness we forfeited, and He breaks the power of death we deserve.

9. What aspect of today's devotional lingers with you? Why?

DAY 3: Made righteous, and being made righteous

Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

1. Paul compares Adam and Christ's actions and results.

- a. What was Adam's action?
- b. What was the result of Adam's action?
- c. What was Christ's action?
- d. What was the result of Christ's action?

2. Paul picks up on the idea of our fallen sin *nature*. When we think of "sin" we usually think of "a" sin. "Sin" is an umbrella term that includes the following that lead us to particular sins:

- a. The propensity to go away from God, and live for ourselves.
- b. Revolving life around ourselves.
- c. Loving self more than we love anyone else.
- d. A nature that *naturally* rebels.
- e. A stubborn nature.
- f. Committed to self, as a "first thing."
- g. Haughty eyes that "know better" than God or others.
- h. A hard heart that is set on doing things "my way."
- i. Ears that only hear what we want to hear.
- j. A will that is unbroken, even before God.

3. Today's question is this: how in the world can any human being's NATURE be redeemed and made right? How can our NATURE be fixed? How would you answer these questions?

4. How did Paul address this question in today's verse?

5. The wonder of the gospel is that we made righteous. This involves two steps. (a) We are declared righteous at our salvation, and (b) We are being made righteous, day-by-day. What part(s) of your sin nature are you most grateful that God is making right?

DAY 4: To restore the honor of God

John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

1. Jesus illustrates three things that are to be of high priority to us! Elaborate on what you think He means by each of these:

a. *"I (Jesus) glorified you (God) on earth..."*

b. *"...having accomplished the work..."*

c. *"the work you gave me to do."*

2. Sometimes people ask, "Why couldn't God just have forgiven everyone, even if they didn't ask for forgiveness?" Have you ever wondered this?

3. If God just did forgive anyone, anyhow, regardless of repentance, how would that affect our human nature? Would we finally "get it" with God? Or would we just continue on our merry way with sin?

4. How is God appropriately honored by those who take sin against Him seriously?

5. How is God honored by repentance?

6. Is sin ever really dealt with in our hearts, until we seek to honor God in everything we do?

7. In John 17:4, Jesus gave Himself to the work *God* gave Him to do. This was more important to Jesus than anything else Jesus wanted to do. How does this show that the honor of God should be more important to us than our own honor or just doing what we want to do?

8. How important is it to you to honor God today? Is it more important than what you want to do? Finish your time today asking God to make His honor preeminent in your life.

Day 5: New inclinations to honor Him.

John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

1. The Westminster Catechism of Faith begins with these words:

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God...”

2. When I think of God working IN our hearts, I think of four things He is doing. He gives us a new:

- a. Purity.
- b. Identity.
- c. Disposition or inclinations.
- d. Power.

3. Today, I'd like to unpack the new "disposition" He gives us.

4. If left to ourselves our old human nature would revert back to our sinful autopilot. We would live for ourselves as our higher priority, and honor ourselves before we thought of honoring Him. What is an example of this in your own life?

5. Instead, God gives us new INCLINATIONS to want to honor Him. It becomes important to us. Instead of "having" to glorify God, we begin to *desire* to glorify God with our lives and by how we relate to people. How do you see this in your own life?

6. The paradox of honoring God as a "first thing" is that THIS is where we find our greatest satisfaction and fulfillment. Our lives take on a far deeper meaning and purpose! What thoughts go through your mind about this?

7. Think of how you could honor God in your current life:

- a. Personal holiness and obedience.
- b. How you relate to some of the people in your life.

8. Ask God to fan the flame of your new inclinations to honor Him above anything else.