

Oblate Media and Communications
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The Incarnation – Keeping God in the Flesh

Introduction

I. Part one: The Mystery of the Incarnation: Understanding the Incarnation:

The common misunderstanding and under-understanding.

Understanding the Incarnation (3 keys)

- The **why** of the incarnation – our “sensuality”
- The **shockingly, raw, physical character** of the incarnation
 - In – Carnus – flesh
 - Body of Christ as equally three physical things: Jesus, Eucharist, Community
- Its **ongoing** character
 - Not a 33-year experiment – but ongoing – the Ascension didn’t mean Christ left
 - The incarnation as ongoing - the inceptive aorist – “The word started to become flesh”
 - Christ was not Jesus’ second name
 - Body of Christ is still with us – Eucharist and the Community
 - We ARE the Body of Christ – not replacement or mystical.
 - The difference between being a Christian and being a theist.
 - Consequences of that
 - John 14, 12 – You can do greater things
 - Immense consequences in how we understand our religious lives in virtually every aspect.

Part II: Consequences of the incarnation for self-understanding:

1. For understanding prayer.

Difference between a theist and a Christian

2. For understanding healing and reconciliation.

Difference between a theist and a Christian

The paradigm – Mark 5 – touching the hem

Reconciliation and forgiveness of sins

“Binding and loosing”

Anointing each other for death

3. For understanding guidance.

John of Cross – “the language of God is the experience God writes into our lives”

4. For understanding community.

Difference between a theist and a Christian

Community is a constitutive part of the very essence of Christianity

John’s Gospel – and the notion of THE SARX –as opposed to the SOMA

5. For understanding religious experience

Fundamental difference between how a theist and a Christian understand religious experience

6. For understanding mission.

7. For how we remain in contact with our loved ones after their deaths