

THE GREAT MYSTERY

John 1:14, 18

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: When considering the eternal nature of Jesus Christ, one is at a total loss, completely inadequate in understanding such divine action. Most people will just shake their heads at this great mystery and turn to some other spiritual matter. John says some things about the deity of Jesus that still most people will fail to understand. *John 1:14, 18* are just two little verses that are so high, lofty and noble that most still do not grasp what he is saying. "How could God, divine, holy, all knowing, all powerful, omniscient, cross that great space that separates man from almighty God?" No one made God, yet God, the Creator has made everything in the universe that is not God. There is a great separation between God and all other beings.

I. GOD BRIDGED THE GAP, THE GREAT SEPARATION

1. How is it possible that God could join all creation to Himself, the mighty Creator?
 - God made the archangels, the seraphim and the cherubim who shield the stones of fire.
 - Man is not the only order of created beings.
 - However man in his sinful pride chooses to believe that he is the only being God created.
 - One may not believe that there are other created beings, but nevertheless, they are there.
 - Mankind is only ONE order of God's beings/creatures.
 - How could the Limitless One deliberately limit Himself?
 - Why should God favor one order of beings above another which He created?
2. God did not take upon Himself the nature of angels.
 - God took upon Himself the nature/seed of Abraham.
 - Abraham was by no means in any way equal to an angel.
 - God didn't step down just a little, stopping with the angels.
 - God came down to the lowest order and took on Himself the nature of Abraham, a man.
 - Paul declared that *"...the mystery of godliness is great..." (1 Timothy 3:16)*.
 - The mystery of God revealed, manifest in the flesh of mankind.
3. One needs to separate the ACT from the METHOD by which the act was done and not reject the fact because one does not understand how it is done.
 - One should enter into the presence of God reverently bowing his/her head and singing His praises, and acknowledging His loving acts on man's behalf.
 - **"It is true, O God, even if we don't know or understand how YOU have brought it all to pass.**

II. GOD NEVER COMPROMISED

1. How much can one know of this great mystery?
 - The Incarnation, the Word made flesh, was accomplished without any compromise of the holy Deity.
 - God did not degrade Himself nor in any sense make Himself to be less than God.
 - God remained God and everything else remained NOT God
 - The gap/gulf still existed even after Jesus Christ had become man and dwelt among men.
 - GOD ELEVATED MANKIND TO HIMSELF.
 - One does not degrade God but instead one elevates man - called REDEMPTION.

2. God can never back out of His workings.
 - The union of mankind with God is in effect throughout all eternity.
 - God can never cease to be man, Jesus (Son of God, second Person of the Trinity) can never un-incarnate Himself, or de-incarnate Himself.
 - The Incarnation remains forever a fact.
 - *"...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..." (John 1:14)*
3. God created Adam (first man) and had communion (communication/fellowship) with mankind.
 - God and mankind walked together as God had made man in His own image and there was no degradation (God lessening Himself) in His communion with Adam and Eve.
 - Adam and Eve hid themselves from God because of pride and disobedience.
 - Sin broke off the communion and fellowship of the Creator and the created.
 - The holy God had to back away from fallen mankind, sending Adam and Eve from the garden and setting up a flaming sword that no human being might return.

III. ADAM (MANKIND) LOST THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1. Adam and Eve (mankind) lost the presence of God, the Creator, and in the ages that followed, God never dwelt with mankind again in that same way as in the Garden of Eden.
 - With Israel, God was in the Shekinah, hidden in the fire and cloud, speaking from there to them.
 - God spoke briefly with Abraham in the tent door and on other occasions.
 - God spoke with Gideon on a threshing floor.
 - God never stayed, His appearances were always veiled and hidden.
 - God showed Himself to Moses in the fire of a burning bush while Moses hid behind a rock.
 - God spoke to others through the recorded history of the Bible, but never revealed His splendor and glory.
2. Then, in the fullness of time God came again to mankind, for *"...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..."*
 - He was called "Immanuel" which means "God with us."
 - Jesus, God in the flesh, came to dwell among mankind in person.
 - Jesus (God) appeared to dwell **with** men and appeared to be united **to** men. He came to ultimately dwell **in** men/women forever.
 - So it is WITH men, and TO men and IN MEN that God came to dwell.
3. Nobody has seen God, but when Jesus Christ came, He showed mankind what God is like.
 - The man walking in Galilee was God acting like God.
 - It was God, limiting Himself deliberately, having crossed that wide, mysterious gap/gulf between Himself and that which He had created.

IV. THE GODHEAD HAS NEVER BEEN DIVIDED

1. *"...My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?..." (Mark 15:34)*
 - It was Mary's son who cried out those words.
 - It was the human body which God had given Him.
 - It was the sacrifice that cried, the Lamb about to die.
 - It was the human Jesus. It was the son of man who cried out those words.
2. Almighty God has never been separated.

- So the cross did not divide the Godhead.
 - Nothing can ever divide the Godhead.
- One forever, indivisible, undivided, three persons, Godhead.

CONCLUSION:

1. How little is known by one's lightminded shallowness. How much every Christian ought to know.
2. ***"...No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him..." (John 1:18)***
3. ***"...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14)***
4. What a great mystery.
 - God stooped to communicate with that which He created, sinful mankind.
 - All that anyone knows about God, God has revealed it.
 - All that mankind benefits from God, it is by God's grace only.
5. ***"...For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life...." (John 3:16)***