

## **WHY GOD BECAME A MAN            1 John 4:1-3**

Int: No one knows exactly HOW God became a man and stepped into his own creation. But WHY God became a man is a fair question. The Bible gives at least five reasons.

### **SO MEN COULD KNOW HIM**

Philip spoke for all when he begged, “Show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus’ answer to Philip’s plea was, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father “ (Jn 14:8-9).

What is God like? Theologians toss around terms like omnipotent, omniscient, immutable and inscrutable. I know these words but I must confess they leave me cold. What is God really like? Why God is like Jesus! He is “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:13).

### **TO LEARN WHAT IT IS TO BE A MAN**

In all other religions God acts but always from a safe distance. So far removed from the human condition did God appear to Job that he cried out in misery, “Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees? Do you understand my pain and feel my hurt” (Job 10:4).

God’s answer to Job’s question is Jesus! Not only does Jesus enable men to understand God but he enables God to understand men. God the Son became a man and came into this sad world to learn from the inside what life is like for men (Heb 4:15; 2:18). He even learned death by dying!

### **TO SHOW HOW MEN SHOULD LIVE**

Whatever else Jesus was, he was what God intends all men to be. “He left us an example that we should follow in his steps” (1 Pet 2:21).

Every person’s question should be, “What would Jesus do in this situation?” and every person’s prayer, “Help me to be the person Jesus was, or would have been, when he was my age!”

### **TO DIE FOR MEN’S SINS**

The immortal God could not die but he assumed a body capable of death plainly for the purpose of dying so as to pay sin’s debt and lift sin’s curse (1 Jn 3:5; Heb 2:8, 14-15). He came to die on behalf of and in the place of every death-guilty sinner.

### **TO DIVIDE MEN INTO BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS**

Christ came to bring division (Lu 12:51). Believers and unbelievers walk together until they confront Jesus. He is the Continental Divide of humanity.