

**And the Word
became
flesh**



Confession of Chalcedon – 451 A.D.

Following the holy Fathers, we unanimously teach and confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, composed of rational soul and body; consubstantial with the Father as to his divinity and consubstantial with us as to his humanity; "like us in all things but sin." He was begotten from the Father before all ages as to his divinity and in these last days, for us and for our salvation, was born as to his humanity of the virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

We confess that one and the same Christ, Lord, and only-begotten Son, is to be acknowledged in two natures without confusion, change, division, or separation. The distinction between natures was never abolished by their union, but rather the character proper to each of the two natures was preserved as they came together in one person and one hypostasis.

And the Word became flesh



Purpose Statement of the Gospel of John

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but *these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

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Who

- v1: “the Word” – *logos* – Made sense to both Jews and Greeks
- v1: “with God” – Trinitarian relationship
- v1: “was God” – Confirmed Deity
- vv3,10: “through Him” – Agent in Creation
- vv4-5,9: “life”, “Light” – Source of life/Light
- vv6-8: “testify” – Fulfillment of prophets, including John the Baptist

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When

- v1: “In the beginning” – Eternity Past
- vv9-11: “coming into the world”, “in the world”, “came to His own” – Period in time
- v11: “His own did not receive Him” – Sets stage for Second Coming and Eternity Future (cf Rev 19:13)

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Where

- vv9-10: “the world” – Planet earth
- v11: “His own” – His own situation (things, possessions, domain)
- v11: “those who were His own” – His chosen people, the Jews

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What

- vv4-5,9: “In Him was life”, “Light shines in the darkness” – Give life, shine Light
- vv7,12-13: “believe through him”, “received Him...children of God” – Save

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How

Verse 14

- “Word became flesh” – Hypostatic Union, Kenosis
- “dwelt” – tabernacled (cf Exodus 40:34-38; see Exodus 34:5-6 for description of God present with Moses)
- “His glory” – God’s glory
- “only begotten” – unique, one and only
- “grace and truth” – singled out among all descriptors; in full measure; divinely complementary (cf Heb 1:1-3a; Col 2:9)

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Grace and Truth

	Grace	Truth
Saves	Eph 2:8-9; 2 Cor 8:9; Rom 5:8	Jn 14:6; Eph 1:13; Gal 5:7
Sustains	Rom 5:2; 2 Cor 9:8	Jn 16:13; 2 Cor 11:10; Eph 4:24
Strengthens	Acts 4:33; 1 Cor 15:10; 2 Tim 2:1; 2 Pet 3:18	Jn 17:17; Eph 6:14

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How

Verses 15-18

- v15: “higher rank...existed before me” – John the Baptist confirms Jesus Christ’s Deity
- v16: “His fullness...received...grace upon grace”
– Emphasis on mankind beholding His glory, and believers receiving grace
- v17: “Law...grace and truth” – Continuum from Law to grace
- v18: “in the bosom of the Father”, “explained Him”
– Intimacy of Trinity; Jesus has “exegeted” the Father

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Why

(Importance to Us – i.e., Application)

- Doctrine
- Salvation
- Sanctification (sustaining and strengthening)
 - Grace and Truth in Action – Philippians 2:1-16
 - Humility, Purity (Obedience), Unity

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