

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John chapter 1 verse 14

Who is “The Word”? According to John he is the one who was with God in the beginning, and who was himself God.

That's confusing. It sounds like John is saying is that God was with himself at the beginning of everything. The first chapter of John contains the most definitive statement in the Bible that Jesus, The Word, is not just a man who perfectly reflects the character and personality of god, but actually *is* God, inhabiting the earth in human form. Difficult though it is for us to comprehend, the person of the one true God, beside whom there is no other God, exists in eternity in the form of a relational community or family within his own singular personality. He is one person expressed in three; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

It is Jesus who makes Christianity unique among faiths. Most other faiths will speak of their written scriptures as the word of God, and Christianity has scriptures too, which Christians believe were spoken by God through people. But Jesus called himself “The way, the truth and the life.” He is the living embodiment of God's word, the truth of God encapsulated in a person, sharing human existence with us.

If we can appreciate, this then we have a continual source of encouragement in our lives. God has not left us with a set of dry rules, regulations and religious observances which we are to keep by our own effort. He is not aloof from our human experience of life but, in Jesus, he has experienced everything that we experience, and that from our human perspective. In the words of the New Testament, he has “Been tested in every way, just as we are, but did not sin.”

The only difference between Jesus and us when he was on earth was that he had no sin. He even shared our human experience of death, but because he had no sin death had no power to hold him. He rose again from the dead so that, just as he shared our humanity, we, by faith in him, can share in his divine nature. He lived a physical and temporal life, dying and rising again so that we could live a spiritual and eternal life. He became like us so that we could become like him.

Prayer

Father, we were made in your image, but that image is spoiled by our sin. Thank you that Jesus came so that your image in us could be renewed. May we put our trust and faith in him, turning to you in repentance, so that we can know what it is to grow spiritually to new and eternal life in you. In Jesus' name, amen.

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