



## PICTURES OF THE INCARNATION - God With Us

The eternal, infinite God became a human being in Jesus Christ—a physical, limited, vulnerable, mortal being in history. The implications of this reality are vast and many. During this Christmas Season we will look at various pictures of this incredible reality of the Incarnation

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

Pictures of the Incarnation: Peace on Earth  
John 1:12-14; Philippians 2:1-11

December 02, 2021

**Bible Verses:** John 1:12-14; Philippians 2:1-11; I Peter 2:9,10

**Resources:** *Sermon #591: The Incarnation* by Timothy Keller

**Music:** Peace On Earth- Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uIUdy0EziO>

**Video:** Father-Daughter Duo Performs 'Let There Be Peace on Earth'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_oaGwi9yyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_oaGwi9yyc)

### GOD WITH US – PEACE ON EARTH.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Something in our hearts inclines us to fight. There is fighting in families, the church, and all kinds of relationships (Phil. 2:3). The cause of fighting is “selfishness or empty/vain conceit”. Greek word that means “to be glory empty.” To be glory empty means to be starved for validation and approval. It means to not be assured of your significance and value, to be starving for respect and honor, to feel like “I don’t matter” or “I don’t count.” All human being suffer from this on some level. Therefore, we have to go get this and that leads to fighting. We pursue significance through money, power, and glory. Success is the way of dealing with our “glory hunger.” Success is the new drug. We hunger for respect and value. Hell is being eternally and utterly ignored. We are relational beings. *“Only if you get love, approval, and esteem from someone you esteem, will you ever have self-esteem.”* – Tim Keller. We are made for God and only He can fill our hearts with the need to be loved, approved of, and valued.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → What is a heart that makes peace (Phil. 2:3,4)? A heart of humility makes peace. Humility means gentle and modest. Humility is counter to “glory starved.” Humility means some kind of “inner fullness.” What makes you fight is an “inner emptiness.” Humility and pride is being defined by what you look at. If you are empty, you habitually look at yourself. If you are full, you can look away from yourself. When you are hungry, you can’t consider anything but your own need. Humility is opposed to:
  1. self-consciousness – hate yourself or self-absorbed,
  2. willfulness – “someone who is always right” ,
  3. scornfulness/contemptuous,
  4. driven-ness.

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”

3. \_\_\_\_\_ → The problem of fighting is solved by the incarnation of Jesus (Phil. 2:5-11). He emptied himself. We need to stop filling ourselves with glory. Jesus was FULL and emptied Himself. Jesus was beautiful beyond bearing. We are empty and are trying to FILL ourselves. When Jesus cried out, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* – what is happening? He is being eternally and utterly ignored. Jesus embraces our worst nightmare ... our pain. Jesus got what we deserved. The Father turned away from Jesus.

This is the story of Jesus –

1. Where He was (2:5,6): Jesus was equal with God but He did not hold on to it. He had the nature of God.
2. Where He went (2:7,8): He emptied himself, came down and went to the cross.
3. Where He is NOW (2:9-11): Highly exalted – above all names.

Because of what Jesus did, we will never be alone, ignored, or forsaken. I Peter 2:9,10 – God calls us His “treasured possession.” Let that fill your heart from the outside in. Take it in and be filled. Nothing can satisfy like this. The way up is down. Now you GO and DO IT!

### **ACTION: Journal This!**

1. Where do you see / experience fighting in your life, i.e. family, friends, work?
2. What makes restoring relationship so hard?
3. Who has made peace with you?

**“Peace On Earth” – By Casting Crowns**

<p>I heard the bells on Christmas day          Their old familiar carols play          And mild and sweet their songs repeat          Of peace on earth good will to men</p> <p>And the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)          Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)          In my heart I hear them          Peace on earth, good will to men</p> <p>And in despair I bowed my head          There is no peace on earth I said          For hate is strong and mocks the song          Of peace on earth, good will to men</p>	<p>But the bells are ringing (Peace on Earth)          Like a choir singing (Peace on Earth)          Does anybody hear them?          Peace on earth, good will to men</p> <p>Then rang the bells more loud and deep          God is not dead, nor doth He sleep (Peace on Earth, peace on Earth)          The wrong shall fail, the right prevail          With peace on earth, good will to men          Then ringing singing on its way          The world revolved from night to day          A voice, a chime, a chant sublime          Of peace on earth, good will to men</p>	<p>And the bells they're ringing (Peace on Earth)          Like a choir they're singing (Peace on Earth)          And with our hearts we'll hear them          Peace on earth, good will to men</p> <p>Do you hear the bells they're ringing?          (Peace on Earth)          The life the angels singing          (Peace on Earth)          Open up your heart and hear them          (Peace on Earth)          Peace on earth, good will to men          Peace on earth, Peace on earth          Peace on earth, Good will to men</p>
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**Bible Verses – The Message**

<p><b>John 1:12-14 - 12</b> But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. <b>13</b> These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. <b>14</b> The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.</p> <p><b>Philippians 2:1-11 - 1</b> If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care - <b>2</b> then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. <b>3</b> Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. <b>4</b> Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. <b>5</b> Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. <b>6</b> He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling</p>	<p>to the advantages of that status no matter what. <b>7</b> Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! <b>8</b> Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death - and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion. <b>9</b> Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, <b>10</b> so that all created beings in heaven and on earth - even those long ago dead and buried - will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, <b>11</b> and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.</p> <p><b>1 Peter 2:9,10 - 9</b> But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you - <b>10</b> from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.</p>
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