

5. How does seeing the Christlikeness of God help us grow in deeper love for God?

6. What are some of the problems with the “Breck Girl” Jesus?

7. Before we recommend looking up first, then looking in to find our authentic selves, what can we affirm in a friend or family member’s search for authenticity, even in the act of looking in first to find their authentic self?

Beyond the Manger - Part 3

“The Christlikeness of God”

John 1:1-5,14

Christmas can be the beginning of a great journey this winter by looking beyond the manger to the Christ of Christmas, the Light- and Life-giver who overcomes the _____.

6 Attributes of Christ that Overcome the Darkness (Part 2)

1. Christ is the **Λόγος**. (= Logos = “the Word”).

2. Christ is pre-existent.

Your good and glorious infinite future impacts your finite now.

3. Christ is God _____.

John 1: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son.

“God doesn’t just make the world; he saves it. It’s in God’s rescue plan that we see the Death Killer’s ‘Son-specific’ beauty.” (The Key Keeper in Emblems of the Infinite King)

If you are convinced of the truth of Christianity but fail to see the beauty and the wonder of the glory of Christ and the goodness of his love, of his Word, and of the Gospel, you’re not likely to have a resilient faith in our world, a world where faith in Christ and living out that faith is increasingly _____ and often despised.

“It is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible—far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing even than the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.” (Wayne Grudem)

Because Jesus is God in the flesh...

- You can see God in a new, glorious _____.
God is _____.

- You can know God suffers with you when you _____.

“Breck Girl Jesus”

“Saccharin, halo enhanced images of Jesus give us the impression that he was something alien, something other than us. But he knows our griefs. He knows our temptations. He knows our weariness. He knows our pain. He knows it by experience.” (Ken Langley)

- You can know who you actually are, were made to be, are becoming in Christ, and will be once again.

Jesus shows us what living as God’s image-bearers looks _____.

Trevin Wax, Rethink Your Self: The Power of Looking Up Before Looking In.

Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God by J. Ryan Lister and illustrated by Anthony M. Benedetto.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read John 1:1-5,14. How do we see Jesus’ “Son-specific beauty” in his rescue plan for humanity?

3. How does seeing the beauty and goodness of the truth of God make us more resilient in our faith?

4. Why do you agree or disagree with Wayne Grudem who states that the incarnation is by far the most amazing miracle in the Bible.