

God's Presence in Christ

John 1:1-15

Intro

We will talk about God's Presence in Christ. When you look at Jesus just what are you looking at and why is this important to you? My goal is as you get a good look at Christ, it will deepen your relationship with God.

Video

I. Jesus is the Tabernacle (the embodiment of God's Mind)

John 1:14 and the Word became flesh (2 **Corth 5:1** and 2 **Peter 1:13**)

The word flesh is a representation of a tent.

The Greek word *skeno* used in John 1:14 literally means "to pitch a tent", or to fix one's tent.

Once again God is in the tent. As we spoke about God in the tabernacle last week, God would not be God without His Holy Spirit. Remember Holy powerful His Spirit is, how the Spirit is shared in the trinity, and how the spirit was given to us.

When the Word became flesh, God's Spirit wrapped in skin through the birth of Mary. The Word became a living body to walk around mankind and live with mankind, but they didn't recognize Him. The mind of God was put in skin so He could teach and be with you. The Word of God became Christ, the mind of God, who died on the cross for you.

This is why Jesus can safely say if you have seen me, you have seen the Father, because they share God's Holy Spirit (Holy Presence), which allows them to have the same characteristics. This had nothing to do with the hands, face, or eyes. This has everything to do with presence. (Shack Movie where God, the Holy Spirit, and Christ died on the cross together.)

II. Jesus is the Shewbread (Always Present)

Exodus 25:23-30

23 “Then make a table of acacia wood 3 feet long, 1½ feet wide, and 2¼ feet high. **24** Overlay it with pure gold, and run a rib of gold around it. **25** Put a molding four inches wide around the edge of the top, and a gold ridge along the molding, all around. **26-27** Make four gold rings and put the rings at the outside corner of the four legs, close to the top; these are rings for the poles that will be used to carry the table. **28** Make the poles from acacia wood overlaid with gold. **29** And make gold dishes, spoons, pitchers, and flagons; **30** and always keep the special Bread of the Presence on the table before me.

The Bread of Presence is a representation of the Presence of God with the 12 tribes of Jacob (the 2 rows of bread represented the 12 tribes, the bread itself represented Jesus's presence). *The very nature of bread is to provide physical sustenance and as you eat the bread and digest it, it becomes part of you. The very nature of the Word of God is to provide spiritual sustenance and as it is received it becomes part of our very nature.* This is why Jesus is our daily bread because He provides our physical and spiritual needs. You can never escape His presence (David said if I make my bed in hell, You are there).

John 6:35

Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (If you will just try Jesus you will never go through life unfulfilled).

Matthew 26:26 *Jesus took a small loaf of bread and blessed it and broke it apart and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take it and eat it, for this is my body.” (Take this and eat it! Make me apart of you, let's have communion, let's join together.)*

III. Jesus is the Menorah (the light) John 1:4

The Menorah in the Tabernacle was placed South of the Table of the Presence. This was also a symbol that Jesus is the light for the 12 tribes of Jacob. God gives us light directed to His path, which is Christ. He is the light inside us, that shines brightly on the outside.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus is the light for men. Divide the work Menorah, Men (aw-dawm) is Hebrew is mankind and Orah is a Female meaning of "prayer" and "light". So not only is Christ our light in the darkness but our intercessor when we are lost, like a High Priest who works in the Tabernacle Jesus prays for us constantly.

John 1:4

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. (Can you see His light? Will you allow Jesus to lead you to God?)

Deeper Look:

God had Mose create a body for His Spirit, which is called the Tabernacle. God's presence in the Tabernacle represents God's home, God's Presence is Holy, and His Presence is mobile.

Jesus is the Tabernacle. He is God's Holy Presence wrapped in flesh. He is the bread of life, meaning His presence in our lives will satisfy our physical and spiritual needs. Jesus is the Menorah, He is the present light in the Tabernacle who lights the pathway to God for mankind. He is the only way to God.

Two living bodies filled with God's Holy Presence so God could have a connection to mankind.

Application:

There are a lot of symbolic things about my son's that remind you a lot of me. There are also things I do that remind you of them because we share DNA. DNA helps identify who belongs to me and who I belong to. I'll never forget when we had a meeting in Arlington at the Presbyterian Church and the speaker was telling the crowd about the wonderful encounters he had with God. At break time, after the guy finished talking, I looked at Sean, Ginger, and Dub and said, I wonder if God will let allow me to fly". I'm a child when it comes to God. Pastor Ginger looked at me and said," That sounds like Caden speaking".

Jesus said, "If you have seen me you have seen the Father."

Challenge:

What do you see in Christ that will lead you to a deeper relationship with God?

Pray/Prayer for the people.