

The Nativity of our Lord  
 Year of the Lord 2021  
 John 1

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;  
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”**  
**“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!  
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”**

**John 1:1–14**

**14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

In the Name of Jesus.

The flesh profits ‘NOTHING,’ our Lord declares in John chapter 6. And yet, He has ‘become flesh.’ He also said, ‘It is the Spirit Who makes alive!’ And yet, God the Word of God, Spirit, has ‘become flesh.’ And there cannot be happier tidings!

At least for your poor, miserable pastor-sinner! For though I am nothing BUT ‘flesh,’ I give myself license, daily and much, to turn my fleshy thoughts and feelings against other flesh, simply because they SHOW THEMSELVES to BE flesh,’ to be just like me. Woe to me! Isaiah cried out! “I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips and I have seen the Lord, the Almighty!”  
 ‘Unclean lips means ‘FLESH.’

But the Lord did a special thing and took away Isaiah’s sin from his lips. He did NOT take away Isaiah’s lips! The

Almighty still wanted Isaiah to BE His creature, even though His creature had turned his beautiful God-given lips God, made for him to bless and love and build up, into a filthy thing that repeated everything Isaiah read in the Advocate or heard on talk radio, the TV and the internet.

That the Word—Mary’s Boy—was made FLESH means—most happily of all!—that He came to be WITH sinners AS a sinner, filthy, woe to Him!, without any regard to whether or not He had actually acted like your pastor or not!

This Spirit-made-Flesh, this Holy One-made-sinner was baptized as just one of the unclean; and has given a bit of water for those few who are SO dirty that they need to pretend, with Heaven, that we are NOT what we are.

‘The FLESH’ profits nothing, says the Word made Flesh, John 6. But then He calls on those who had eaten His bread and fish to eat His Flesh, gnaw on it; and to drink His Blood. To which all those good Jews reacted as they had been taught: ‘Ewwwww!’

Our fellow Sinner, the Holy One, was just trying to move all our idolatrous hearts from idolizing food to try and idolize a man who lost—UNANIMOUSLY!—the ONLY election He was ever in! To a MURDERER! NO ONE idolized THIS Man, This King, This God! And, my dear ones, let us have a Merry Christmas and turn, turn, turn from any delusion that WE—our FLESH!—W...A...N...T... such a God, such a King, such a Holy One. WE don’t want JESUS! NOT the Jesus of the BIBLE!

You want THIS no more than I do:

**13** Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."<sup>1</sup> . . . .

<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."<sup>2</sup>

The Word-made-flesh holds all things in His very creaturely hands. That is why the holidays are so stressful. Don't blame greed. Blame God! He's trying, as best He can, to teach us that the flesh profits nothing.

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Jn 13:1–8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Jn 13:12–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Let me try: Since Y'ALL, with your pastor, believe in the One God has sent, eating His Flesh and drinking His Blood, you rose—with your pastor—EARLY on Christmas morning! NOT to catch sight of reindeer on the rooftops, but to pray with beaming faces and hearts, for each of the Barabbas-es and Pontius Pilate's the Lord has put in place instead of Him IN THIS WORLD, to which HIS kingdom does not belong!

With clean lips, because of your Baptism by the Word made flesh, you joined your poor pastor in thanking God for Mayor and Governor and Congress and President and Judges and Magistrates—I must confess, that I did not get up early enough! I think I forgot a few! Shame on me!

I read recently Doctor Luther saying that though He was Lord in the Flesh, Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate and declared that odious pagan to be HIS earthly god and lord! No jabs to unseat or unsettle the violent Roman from power. 'POWER!' We must, dear children of God, BEGIN to see with different eyes and judge with a different spirit. What is power?

Power, says HEAVEN, says the Holy One, is the weak Babe of Bethlehem, the powerless Man on the cross, and stale Bread and Wine HE gives still and blesses and somehow then GIVES US His BODY to eat and His Blood to drink—to forgive even this: your poor pastor did NOT rise early to intercede for and bless my odious, pagan rulers, whom Jesus installed for my good. Not like y'all.

By His Body and His Blood, even I am guaranteed that God's Holiness has touched me and my guilt has been taken away. Heaven would not MIND if some time today, and then early TOMORROW, I did INDEED act like a child of God, and pray for those in authority.

But my flesh profits nothing; even GOOD DEEDS don't 'GET US' anywhere with Heaven. What moves HEAVEN, is the Good News that the Beating HEART of Heaven has pledged Himself to be with—and ONLY WITH—those like you, me, and all our fellow communicants, whose flesh cannot enrich this WORLD, much less Heaven!

Grace and truth—God's predictable way of dealing with US poor sinners!—without a hint of the Law or Moses or works or OUR FLESH!

Merry Christmas in the Name of Jesus.