

Condescension

Ponder: Christ's sacrifice even before the cross

Scripture: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14, NKJV).

Have you considered what Jesus gave up in order to put on human flesh and give Himself to atone for our sins? Even before He went to the cross, Jesus made tremendous sacrifice.

Jesus has always existed as a Person of Deity. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

"Word" (Greek "logos") is the medium used to communicate an idea. We use spoken or written words to communicate our ideas. When God the Father wanted to communicate Himself to humanity, He sent Jesus. So completely did Christ communicate the Father that our Savior Himself said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Paul wrote, "In Him (i.e. in Jesus Christ) dwells all the fullness of Deity in bodily form" (Col. 2:9).

Jesus did not surrender His Deity when He took on human flesh, but He temporarily gave up an intimate fellowship with the Father that seldom receives our appreciation. As we read John's statement that "the Word was with God," let us consider carefully the word "with." It indicates the closest possible fellowship. Commentator William Hendrickson accurately calls it a "face-to-face" relationship.

Jesus knew the preciousness of this fellowship and longed for it to be re-established. Even as the cross loomed nearer and nearer on the horizon, He prayed, "Glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5).

Think of it! Our Savior gave up this intimacy with the Father, which He had enjoyed eternally in Heaven, in order to become one of us, suffer, and die so our sins could be forgiven. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15).

Hymn: "If That Isn't Love"

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we marvel at the love of Jesus Christ and the love You demonstrated by sending Him to save us. Help us to love as You have loved. In Jesus' name, Amen.