

# John 1 - Adoration: Immanence

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, December 15, 2024

**adore** \ə-ˈdôr\

**1:** to worship or honor as a deity or as divine

**2:** to regard with loving admiration and devotion <adored his wife>

**3:** to be very fond of <adores pecan pie>

**tran•scen•dent** \-dənt\

**1 a:** exceeding usual limits: surpassing

**b:** extending or lying beyond the limits of ordinary experience

**2:** being beyond comprehension

**3:** transcending the universe or material existence—contrast immanent

**im•ma•nent** \-nənt\

**1:** indwelling, inherent

**2:** being within the limits of possible experience or knowledge—contrast transcendent

*Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One That inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, With him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Herein lies transcendence (beyond us) and immanence (near... even within us) side-by-side.*

- Christmas celebrates Immanence.
- To truly appreciate the miracle of immanence, we must understand His transcendence.

*Psalm 97* – A Kingly psalm of David

His Transcendent Reign, Glory, Righteousness, Justice and Presence and its impact on our Worship, Holiness & Hope.

Each of these attributes EXCEED our ability to comprehend yet deserve our adoration.

## Jesus, the Transcendent

*John 1:1-5 IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

This CLEARLY speaks of Jesus Christ.

- **1a: Timeless** – inhabits eternity (Isaiah 57:15).
- **1b: Trinity** – beyond our comprehension.
- **1c-2: Full Divinity** – no question left about it. I still don't understand.
- **3: Creator** of EVERY category of thing apart from Himself. **Making Him "other" (holy) in every sense.**
- **4a: Author of Life** (making Him suitable for the ultimate Death). **Varying degrees of life imparted to creation. To mankind was imparted the Image of God... an eternal existence and other qualities.**
- **4b: His Life has a Moral Quality.**  
Moral – speaking of right/wrong, good/evil.  
**He gave us more than breath: truth, hope, & possibility of peace.**  
**The is a kind of existence apart from "light". (Jude 6 – everlasting darkness)**
- **5: Define our terms:**  
Darkness – sin, corruption, death, Satan  
Comprehended – to overtake, overrule, gain mastery of, conquer  
**All the darkness (sin, corruption, death) could not diminish or extinguish His light.**  
*"Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You.  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.  
The Heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory.  
For You are raised to life again" – What a Beautiful Name. Behold the Transcendence of our God!*

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## Jesus, the Immanent

**John 1:14-18** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. <sup>16</sup> And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

- **14a:** The Word made flesh. **Everything we just said remains completely true of Christ in His incarnation. His mission required Him to temporarily lay aside His glory, and some natural attributes, but He did not change.**
- **14b:** The Flesh was His tabernacle.  
Dwelt – tabernacled. Recall **Psalm 97:2a** “Clouds and thick darkness are all around Him”  
**We sing “veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate deity.” – Hark the Herald Angels Sing**  
**Despite the veil of flesh (the thick clouds of darkness) those who would see could see the glory peeking through.**  
**Illus:** Who do men say I am? (**Matt 16**)
- **15:** John was a herald of the revelation of the eternal King of Kings.
- **16:** His love has been realized (experienced) by His people, with blessing upon blessing, poured upon His children.  
**If you are saved, you know who I’m talking about!**
- **17:** The Incarnation (Immanence) is New Revelation
  - We have a foundation of His transcendence in the Old Testament revelation (Moses).  
**There is nothing wrong with it whatsoever. He is holier than we can even imagine** (**Isaiah 6**)
  - Immanence revealed even more of His glory.  
**Christ brings the “other” near, bringing the transcendent God within our realm of experience.**
    - **Truth:** The example of His life. **Illus:** Feeding 5,000 after seeking to be alone.
    - **Truth:** The wisdom of His teaching. **Depth, Insight, Resolving questions of the day and traps.**
    - **Grace:** Stepping down into humanity.  
**Hebrews 4:15** (ESV) *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Unfathomable compassion.*
    - **Grace:** The sacrifice of love (both the Father and Son).  
**Drawing near did not diminish His glory; it made it shine ever more brightly.**  
**Being born, living and dying among men (immanence) made His transcendence real to us.**
- **18:** Declared – made Him known
  - **Historically:**
    - Cast out of the Garden after our sin.
    - Sinai: God at the top of the mountain, distant, glorious, but clouded
    - Temple worship at a distance. **We cannot dwell with Him!**
  - **Now:**  
**Matt 1:23** *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. **The coming of Christ was the dawn of an age of Immanence!***
    - **John 4:21-24** - Worship would be decentralized from the Temple
    - **Luke 23:45** – Veil torn in two at His death.
    - **John 14:23** *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*
    - **Matt 28:18-20** The church established as a dwelling place of His Spirit and sent out.  
**THROUGH CHRIST, THE TRANSCENDENT BECOMES IMMANENT; THE UNKNOWABLE CAN BE KNOWN.**  
**This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.**  
**Illus:** A glorious sunrise