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## **God was Manifested in The Flesh.**

**(1 Timothy 3:14-16)**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## God was Manifested in the Flesh.

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- **1 Timothy 3:16:** Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

**Mystery:** means that which had been hidden or concealed, but the meaning as used here is not that it was mysterious in the sense that it was impossible to be understood, but that it had been 'kept hidden.'

**Godliness:** literally means, holiness, goodness and righteousness, but in this context, it refers to the plan of the Gospel which Paul states was the mystery which had been hidden from ages and from generations and which is now manifest (Colossians 1:26). Paul shines a floodlight on what the Mystery of Godliness is through the following six points:

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### 1. GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

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The words, "God was manifest in the flesh" does not mean that God was actually Jesus (as some teach), but that Jesus not only perfectly manifested God's character, nature, mind, love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness etc., but also perfectly manifested God's power and his eternal word, plans promises and purposes while he walked on earth as a servant to mankind. Jesus was God manifest in the flesh in that he was the perfect image of God and that God by his word and his Spirit dwelt in Christ without limitations. Jesus was the manifestation of God's word full of grace, mercy, truth and power appearing in human form on earth (John 1:14). Another way of saying God was manifest in the flesh is to say, "Jesus was in the form of God" meaning, he was the express image of the Spirit character and nature of God the Father, he perfectly manifested God's love, grace, mercy and power and the plans, promises and purpose of God on earth.

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The character of Jesus on earth was an exact copy, image or form of the character of God the Father in heaven it is in this sense that Paul states, "God was manifest in the flesh." Since the phrase, "God was manifest in the flesh" means the same as "Jesus was in the form of God" it should be noted that the copy of the form of the object does not become the object itself it is a copy or image of the object meaning Jesus though he is a perfect image of God is not God Himself. Philip says:

- Jesus being born in the likeness of men and in human form made himself a servant. (Philip. 2:7).

Jesus was born of a woman, had the same body as all humans and was tempted as all humans are but without sin and even though he had all of God's Spirit and power available to him without limitation rather than exalt himself, he humbly made himself a servant of others setting the example for all those who belong to him.

**NOTE:** if Jesus was God (as some teach) he could not be tempted since the Bible says, "God Himself cannot be tempted" (James 1:13) nor could he die since God is immortal (1 Tim 1:17) meaning he cannot die.

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### 2. VINDICATED/JUSTIFIED BY THE SPIRIT

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**Vindicated/Justified:** means to be proven right and blameless. The word Spirit here refers to God's Spirit also called the Holy Spirit since it is not possible to attach any intelligible sense to a phrase that read, "He was justified by his own Spirit." By God showing his approval of his Son Jesus was justified in the Spirit in the following three majestic ways:

- a) By the Holy Spirit descending on him at his water baptism and a voice from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased."
- b) By his miracles and wonders since they were performed by the Spirit of God flowing through him and therefore were full proof that he was who he claimed to be since had he not been the Son of God, God would not have displayed such a clear and miraculous testimony to the claims he made of himself.
- c) Jesus was scolded as a sinner, and put to death as a common criminal, but was raised again by the Spirit of God, and so was justified from all the slanders, defamations and accusations with which he was accused. He was vindicated in that he was shown to be the Son of God by his resurrection to eternal glory and the right hand side of God and in this spectacular and majestic event his accusers (especially the Jews) were proven to be wrong in their judgment while Christ was proven to be right and thereby acquitted from all the charges alleged against him.

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### 3 SEEN BY ANGELS

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Since the word angels simply means messenger it can refer to human messengers acting for God i.e., prophets' apostles and disciples or to the supernatural heavenly angels, but since no one need to be told Jesus was seen by men the reference here is to the heavenly host. Peter, when talking of brothers and sisters in Christ told them that they are:

- Being born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them, to be revealed in the last time, but have now been announced through those who preached the good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven things into which angels long to look (1 Peter 3-12).

Angels worshipped the Lord they attended his birth, his temptation, his agony, his death, his resurrection and his ascension. The design of Paul's discourse in verse sixteen is to give an impressive view of the grandeur and glory of Christ who though despised by people, attracted and excited the deepest attention of the Heavenly Hosts.

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### 4 PROCLAIMED AMONG THE NATIONS (GENTILES)

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Jesus proclaimed among the nation's means that salvation was proclaimed to all mankind and just Israel. This was one grand part of the glorious mystery which had been hidden in God that the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews, and be admitted into the Kingdom of God. The Jews at this time regarded the rest of mankind as excluded from the covenant mercies of God. This was one of the principal stumbling blocks for the Jews in regard to the Gospel, because the Gospel gloriously proclaims that all nations are equal before God and that that middle wall of partition that stood before Jews and Gentiles is broken down and therefore salvation is now freely available to all mankind. The Gospel proclaims that God has granted both Jews and Gentiles repentance, forgiveness of sins and redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephes. 2:14-15) (Ephes. 6:19) (Col. 1:26-27) (Col. 4:3) (Acts 22:21)  
(Rom. 3:22) (Rom. 10:11-20)

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### 5 BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD

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The words, "Believed on in the world," obviously do not mean that all the world believed on Christ, but that he was received by all nations in contrast to Israel only. This is a most marvellous and striking part of the mystery of godliness, many of the Gentiles welcomed the Gospel which

many of the Jews rejected. Who would have thought that the world which lay in wickedness would acknowledge the ONE whose Kingdom is not of this world and whose doctrines are opposed to all the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions of human nature (self, ego and pride etc.) and who was not only crucified as a common criminal, but also despised and rejected wherever his Gospel was preached would believe he is the Son of God and take him to be their Saviour.

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## 6 TAKEN UP IN GLORY

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Taken up to glory clearly refers to the Lords resurrection this majestic world changing event was the crown of his exaltation. He was raised from the dead and had glory put upon his risen body, he ascended to heaven and was received there with a welcome by his Father and is set down at his right hand crowned with glory and honour.

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## GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

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The term God was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory (1 Tim 3:16) refers to God who by the fullness of His Spirit (also called the Holy Spirit) dwelling in Christ was reconciling mankind to himself. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote:

- If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-19).

God was manifested in the flesh does not mean that Jesus was God, but that God was manifested in a human body through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the perfect image and mirror reflection of God. He perfectly manifested Gods heart, character, nature, compassion, mercy, grace and love and God's power and eternal life by the resurrection of his body from the dead to eternal life. It was in this sense that Jesus manifested God in the flesh (i.e., in a human body born of a woman). God the Fathers plan of salvation is also a marvellous mystery in that Jesus Israel's Messiah the Christ manifested God the Father in his life here on earth, but God's chosen people (especially the religious leaders) plotted to kill him while those who God's chosen people rejected accepted Christ with great love, zeal and passion.

The words, "God was manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16) do not mean that God the Father was actually the Son in the flesh. If this was the reality it would mean that the Almighty Holy Supreme God who controls the universe each moment of each day had vacated His heavenly throne to become a foetus in the womb of Mary and be born as a baby leaving no-one in control of the universe and the heavenly host. The idea that Jesus is God does not make any sense, even a simple child knows that a father cannot become his son and the son cannot become his father, a father is always the father and a son is always the son.

The Bible from Genesis to Revelation and on into eternity reveals a beautiful picture of an eternal Father who so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). The story is so wonderful and so simple that even a child can understand its message and the wonderful relationship the Father and the Son have in unity and love together. It is truly bedazzling why some in Christianity have made the relations between God the Father and his most beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ so confusing and difficult to understand by claiming Jesus is God.