

Take a look at some of the passages of Scripture that speak of the incarnation of Christ: John 1:1-18 and Hebrews 2:10-18.

- What catches your attention, what speaks to your soul?
- Are there any details that seem new to you or ideas you haven't caught before?
- Do these two passages have anything in common? What?
- Are there any differences? What?
- In your own words, why do you think that Jesus took on flesh and became human?

Kasey suggested Sunday that many of our thoughts and ideas about the incarnation are good, true, right, and beautiful; but maybe not big enough. He suggested that perhaps one of the 'big reasons' for the incarnation was for God to demonstrate a solidarity, unity, or bond with humanity.

- How does this idea compare with your previous thinking about the incarnation?
- We've said that God is more than for us, He is with us. In what ways, or on what levels is this true?

Kasey suggested that the incarnation is about God entering into our space, time, and consequences with us and that this is what builds the solidarity, bond, or unity with God.

- Do you think "entering into a space, time, and consequences" with humanity is an accurate description of the incarnation? Why or why not?
- Think of someone(s) that you have a particularly strong bond with, even solidarity. Can you explain why? What led to the bond of unity that you feel with them?
- Does your example confirm or conflict with the other ideas we've been suggesting?

Kasey shared several passages where Jesus speaks of being one with God and one with us and us being one with each other as evidence that the incarnation is about solidarity or unity with God and each other. Some of the passages were: John 14:15-21; John 15:1-8; and John 17:20-23.

- What do you think about the idea that the incarnation was not just to save us (God for us), but to be with us?
- Why do you think it was on Jesus final night before His death that He spoke so much about this unity to the disciples?
- What significance should Jesus' timing in sharing these ideas have?
- What does Jesus say will happen when we have unity with Him and each other?

A passage that we did not explore together on Sunday is in Philippians 2:1-11.

- In what ways is this description of the incarnation similar to the others we've looked at?
- Look at how Paul introduces the idea of the incarnation in verses 1-4, what stands out to you?
- How does Paul say we can make his joy complete (vs. 2)?
- Why does Paul say we should do this (vs. 1)?
- What's the common theme?

Kasey suggested that it was important for us to see how the early church understood and applied these teachings of Jesus and pointed us to Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-37.

- What do you think devoting yourself to fellowship and breaking bread together means?
- Do these passages confirm or conflict with the idea shared last week about the importance of sharing meals and opening our homes to each other?
- What do you think it means that all the believers were one in heart and mind?
- What do you think it means to 'have everything in common'?
- Why do you think God added daily to their number those who were being saved (hint: John 17:20-23)?

Kasey suggested that the early church having everything in common, being one in heart and mind, breaking bread and eating together in one another's homes were their expressions of following Christ's teaching and example.

- Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Can you think of examples where Jesus taught or modeled these things to the disciples?
- If they aren't yet, the excuses and justifications for why the early church's example is not practical today will soon be racing into your head and heart. What are they?
- Is there truth to any of them?
- What would it take to overcome them?

Kasey said that, "Having everything in common is about more than the community lawnmower, it's about sharing life together." Another way to say this would be, "Having everything in common means entering into a space and time and sharing the consequences with someone else."

- Does this ring true to you? Why or why not?
- Why is sharing in the consequences an important part of the equation?
- Do you want to live this way? Do YOU want to step fully into someone else's humanity and walk with them through the mess towards the new humanity?
- Be honest, why and why not?

Think for a moment about the FACT that God in Christ Jesus chooses to step fully into your humanity, your situation. He doesn't shy away from the messy stuff, He walks through it with you. He steps into your space and your time and shares the consequences with you.

- How does this make you feel?
- How have you experienced this in your life?
- Has God ever used other people in your life to do this?

In Jesus prayer in John 17:18 He says, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

- What is the example that Jesus set, 'how' was He sent?
- This is 'how' you are now sent...so go and do likewise.