



Sermon Discussion Guide

December 9, 2018
"This is Me!"
Pastor Steve DeNeff
John 1:1-2, 10-14;
Colossians 2:9-10

Prayer

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. **Philippians 1:9-11**

Discussion Starter

Remember and share a time that you did something and said, "Well, I'm only human."

Sermon Summary

The incarnation is a miracle in which God, without ever ceasing to be God, becomes what he created in order to reconcile us to Himself. In Jesus, what is Divine and what is Human meet. God comes down into our humanity, taking upon himself the limitations and the sin of our humanity so that He might transform it. In the process, He takes our humanity (not some other) up into Himself so that we might bear the likeness of God. This matters because it means a lot of what we've been excusing as just part of our humanity actually isn't human at all, but sub-human. It means that much of what we keep asking God to take away because it seems below him or unfair to us, actually IS part of what it means to be human. So as Christians we are called to be rid of things we keep leaning into (like certain dispositions, behaviors and instincts) and to lean into some things we keep trying to be rid of (like thorns in the flesh, unanswered prayers, undeserved injustices). We often justify things we should be letting go of, or we ask God to take away things we should be bearing. This Christmas, we are reminded that Christ Himself is our standard. He is our humanity.

Sermon Review Questions

1. What are you still doing or feeling, and justifying as "only human," that is not in the humanity of Jesus? What steps could you take to begin letting go of it?
2. What have you tried to be rid of, asking God to take it away, that you should just bear? Who will you ask to help you?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

Habit

During the season of advent read from one of the Gospels each day. As you read, think about what Jesus is like and then remember that this what we should be like. Remember this attribute of humanity throughout the day, letting it form your picture of who you are supposed to be.

Quote

"And in the Incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. Henceforth, any attack even on the least of men is an attack on Christ, who took the form of man, and in his own Person restored the image of God in all that bears a human form. Through fellowship and communion with the incarnate Lord, we recover our true humanity, and at the same time we are delivered from that individualism which is the consequence of sin, and retrieve our solidarity with the whole human race. By being partakers of Christ incarnate, we are partakers in the whole humanity which he bore." **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship***