

The Great Mystery That Is God

John 1:1-3 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

John 1:14 [NIV] *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

In these statements are the deepest mystery of human thought.

How could God cross the wide yawning gulf that separates what is God from that which is **not** God?

No-one could have made God, but God, the Creator, has made all those things in the universe which are **not** God.

How God bridged this great gulf is indeed one of the most profound and darkest mysteries to which human thought can be directed.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. **We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.**”*

How is it possible for the clay to know the mind of the potter?

Deuteronomy 33:27 [NIV] *“**The eternal God** is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, ‘Destroy him!’”*

How could the infinite, eternal God every become finite?

How could the limitless One deliberately impose limitations upon Himself?

Hebrews 2:16 [King James] *“For verily he took **not** on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”*

We would humanly suppose that God in stepping down would step down just as little as possible to reveal Himself to humans, His creation.

An angel or a seraphim, but instead He came down and took on the lowest order, the seed of Abraham.

1 Timothy 3:16 [NIV] *“Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”*

Paul wonders at this great mystery.

There are so many more things in heaven and in earth about God that we can never know, so God will always be a mystery.

This union of God and man is effectively now perpetual.

1 Timothy 2:5 [NIV] *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus,**”*

In the sense which we have been considering, God can never cease to be man, for the second person in the Trinity can never un-incarnate Himself, or de-incarnate Himself.

The incarnation remains a fact for ever.

Genesis 2:19-20 [NIV] *“Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.”*

God walked and talked with Adam whom He had created in His own image [resemblance or shadow, not the real thing.]

Genesis 3:8 [NIV] *“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **they hid from the LORD God** among the trees of the garden.”*

Since the original disobedience of Adam and Eve, humanity is in hiding from God.

Pride and disobedience, doubt and failure when tested, sin has broken off the communion and fellowship of the Creator and the created.

Genesis 3:24 [NIV] *“After **he drove the man out**, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

The Holy God had to reject the sinning Adam and Eve, sending them from the presence of God and setting up a barrier so they could **not** return to the source of life itself.

Genesis 3:23 [NIV] *“So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.”*

Death now reigns instead of eternal life for all human beings.

Matthew 1:18, 22-23 [NIV] *“**This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.** Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and **they will call him Immanuel**” — which means, “**God with us.**”*

God never dwelt again with human beings in the same way as Adam and Eve did at first until the coming of Jesus Christ.

John 1:18 [King James] *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which **is** in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”*

Note the tense **not** “was”, **not** “will be” **but** “is”.

This is the present, perpetual tense, the continuous tense.

Therefore, when Jesus hung on the cross He did **not** leave the presence of the Father.

Mark 15:34 [NIV] *“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” — which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

What about these words?

John 4:24 [NIV] *“God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

You cannot divide spirit.

It was Mary’s son who cried out.

It was the human body which God had given the Word that cried out.

It was the sacrificed Lamb of God that was about to die that cried out.

It was the human Jesus, the Son of Man, who cried out.

Luke 23:46 [NIV] *“Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.”*

The human Jesus then committed His human spirit to the Godhead.

So the cross did **not** divide the Godhead, nothing can ever do that.

God is One forever, indivisible, the Spirit undivided three persons in one.

Luke 24:1-7 [NIV] *“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? **He is not here; he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: **‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’**”*

He, the Son of Man, Jesus the Christ is risen.

Hebrews 4:14-16 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have **a great high priest** who has gone through the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God**, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do **not** have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Immanuel [God with us] is now at the Father’s right hand as our High Priest.

John 14:15-21 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever —the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.** Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

Jesus being God and spirit is **not** limited to one place or time.

Jesus the Son of Man can be with us or in us through our obedience to His commands and our sacrificial love for Him: Jesus will then continue to reveal God to us.