

INCARNATION

GOD IN YOU

Our liturgical friends may have an advantage in understanding the primary theological proposition of “incarnation.” There are a number of liturgical churches labeled Church of the Incarnation. (Not exactly First Baptist, First Presbyterian, or First Assembly) There is even a university called University of the Incarnate Word.

Incarnate – God in the Flesh. There was a first century heresy of denying that Jesus actually came in the flesh. They denied that God, in fact, became as we were – flesh, and subject to the same challenges as we are. They denied that God limited Himself to the here and now where He became tired, annoyed, irritated, sad, exhausted, and even weeping.

In not understanding and appreciating His incarnation, we may miss the great love that God has for us by allowing His Son to become

like us. And it is on the cross where He became fully incarnated – human. And the One who knew no sin, on the cross became sin, in all of its degradation in order to redeem us from sin. He did not come down from the cross but finished His mission so we could become like Him.

This is where we come to the second understanding of Incarnation – God within us. And this is where our evangelical friends may have an advantage. We talk about inviting Jesus into our hearts. “Have you asked Jesus into your heart?” God living in us. In John 17 Jesus says, “I and my Father will make Our house in you.” And in Acts the believers became filled with the Holy Spirit – the whole Godhead living in you. And we become incarnated.

So, what are the steps of Christ living in you?