

Emmanuel: “God With Us”

Matthew 1:18-23

Christmas is not about parties... family get-togethers... presents under a decorated tree. Christmas is about God and man. It is about salvation.

The meaning of Christmas is summed up in one word— *E* — *G* . Without *E* all you have is another worthless worldly holiday.

No one in the Bible actually called Jesus *E* .” The name *E* is a name that describe who Jesus is. It is about **the incarnation of Christ**. Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8).

Let’s break down the meaning of *E* (“*God...With...Us*”) to see what these three words say about Jesus to us today.

I. “*God*” speaks of IDENTIFICATION.

There are some names that fit the people who have them:

- There is a flower shop named “Bloom’s Flowers” in Albion, NY owned by the “Bloom” Family.
- In Keller, TX there is a dentist named “Dr. Glenn Payne”
- In Norfolk, VA there is a funeral home named, “Graves Funeral Home” run by “Thomas Graves.”
- A surgeon in a Wisconsin hospital named “Dr. Hacker”
- President Reagan’s White House S 14(o) 3 (k) -0.5 (e) -

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- B. His CONDUCT proved Him to be God.
 - 1. Accepted worship as God (Mt. 4:10; Acts 10:25-26 cf. 14:33; John 9:38)
 - 2. Forgave sins (Mk. 2:5-12).
- C. He is CALLED God (John 1:1, 14; 20:26-29; Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 2:8; 1 John 5:20).

II. "With" speaks of INTENTION.

A. He came to LIVE AS MAN.

- Hebrews 2:17-18— “

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➡The incarnation. C.S. Lewis illustrated it this way:

Lying at your feet is your dog. Imagine, for the moment, that your dog, and every dog, is in deep distress. Some of us are real “dog lovers.” If it would help all the dogs in the world to become like them, would you be willing to become a dog? Would you lay aside your human nature, leave your loved ones, your job, your delicious meals—and instead of enjoying the intimate fellowship with your beloved spouse, choose the poor substitute of looking into the beloved's face and wagging your tail, unable to smile or speak?

Christ by becoming man limited the thing which to Him was the most precious thing in the world; his unhampered, unhindered communion with the Father.”

➡He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21).

B. He came to DIE FOR MAN.

- Hebrews 2:9— B J ,

G .

- B G , C **FOR US** (Rom. 5:8).

- *T* *C* *J* (1 Tim. 1:15).
 - People say, “Jesus is the reason for the season.” While I understand the sentiment of that statement, it is not completely accurate. The truth is “**YOU ARE THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.**” YOU are the reason Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago.
- C. He came to LIVE IN MAN (Gal. 2:20- *C*).
- Ephesians 3:17—

working woman who loved her job. But now she felt useless. Susan sank into a deep depression and never ventured outside her home. Just getting through each day was an exercise in frustration and exhaustion.

Her husband, Mark, was an Air Force officer and he determined to help his wife regain her confidence so she could work again. After weeks of lovingly encouraging his wife, Susan finally agreed to try to return to her job, but how would she get there?

She used to take the bus, but now she was too fearful to get around the city by herself. Mark volunteered to drive her to work each day, even though they worked at opposite ends of the city.

This arrangement worked for awhile, but Mark realized this situation would not last—it was hectic, and costly. He was going to have Susan start taking the bus again, but he cringed at the thought of suggesting it to her. How would she react?

Just as Mark feared, Susan was horrified at the idea of taking the bus again. "I'm blind!" she responded bitterly. "How am I supposed to know where I'm going? I feel like you're abandoning me."

Mark tried to reassure Susan that each morning and evening he would ride the bus with her, for as long as it took, until she was comfortable with it.

For two weeks, Mark dressed in his military uniform, accompanied Susan to and from work each day. He taught her how to rely on her other senses, specifically her hearing, to determine where she was. He helped her befriend the bus drivers who could watch out for her, and save her a seat.

Each morning they made the journey together, and Mark would take a cab back to his office. Mark knew it was only a matter of time before Susan would be able to ride the bus on her own.

Finally, Susan decided that she was ready to try the trip on her own. Monday morning they walked together to the bus stop. She kissed Mark good-bye and boarded the bus.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday...each day on her own went perfectly. She was doing it! She was going to work all by herself!

On Friday morning, Susan took the bus to work as usual. As she was paying for her fare, the driver said, "Boy, you sure are blessed." Curious, Susan asked the driver, "Why do you say that?"

The driver responded, "It must give you a lot of confidence to know you are being taken care of and protected."

Susan had no idea what the driver was talking about, and asked again, "What do you mean?"

The driver answered, "You know, every morning for the past week, a fine looking gentleman in a military uniform has been standing on the corner watching you as you get off the bus. He makes sure you cross the street safely and he watches you until you enter your office building. Then he blows you a kiss, gives you a little salute and walks away. You are one blessed lady."

Susan's face lit up as tears of joy ran down her cheeks. Although she couldn't physically see him, she had always felt Mark's presence. He gave her a gift more powerful than sight, a gift she didn't need to see to believe - the gift of love that can bring light where there had been darkness.

God watches over us in just the same way. We may not know He is present. We may not be able to see His face, but He is there nonetheless!

Blessed is the truth: / , (Heb. 13:5), even when you are not looking."

If you are saved, you literally have God living in YOU! As we sing,
C L I M . (#371)