

1. What does it mean that the Word became flesh (John 1:14)?

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The term *word* is used in different ways in the Bible. In the New Testament, there are two Greek words translated "word": *rhema* and *logos*. They have slightly different meanings. *Rhema* usually means "a spoken word." For example, in [Luke 1:38](#), when the angel told Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son, Mary replied, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word [*rhema*]."

Logos, however, has a broader, more philosophical meaning. This is the term used in [John 1](#). It usually implies a total message, and is used mostly in reference to God's message to mankind. For example, [Luke 4:32](#) says that, when Jesus taught the people, "they were amazed at his teaching, because his words [*logos*] had authority." The people were amazed not merely by the particular words Jesus chose but by His total message.

"The Word" (*Logos*) in [John 1](#) is referring to Jesus. Jesus is the total Message—everything that God wants to communicate to man. The first chapter of John gives us a glimpse inside the Father/Son relationship before Jesus came to earth in human form. He preexisted with the Father (verse 1), He was involved in the creation of everything (verse 3), and He is the "light of all mankind" (verse 4). The Word (Jesus) is the full embodiment of all that is God ([Colossians 1:19](#); [2:9](#); [John 14:9](#)). But God the Father is Spirit. He is invisible to the human eye. The message of love and redemption that God spoke through the prophets had gone unheeded for centuries ([Ezekiel 22:26](#); [Matthew 23:37](#)). People found it easy to disregard the message of an invisible God and continued in their sin and rebellion. So the Message became flesh, took on human form, and came to dwell among us ([Matthew 1:23](#); [Romans 8:3](#); [Philippians 2:5–11](#)).

The Greeks used the word *logos* to refer to one's "mind," "reason," or "wisdom." John used this Greek concept to communicate the fact that Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, is the self-expression of God to the world. In the Old Testament, the word of God brought the universe into existence ([Psalm 33:6](#)) and saved the needy ([Psalm 107:20](#)). In chapter 1 of his Gospel, John is appealing to both Jew and Gentile to receive the eternal Christ.

Jesus told a parable in [Luke 20:9–16](#) to explain why the Word had to become flesh.

9. Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

10. And at the season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent him away empty.

11. And again he sent another servant: and they beat him also, and entreated him shamefully, and sent him away empty.

12. And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out.

13. Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him.

14. But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.

15. So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

16. He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid.

In this parable, Jesus was reminding the Jewish leaders that they had rejected the prophets and were now rejecting the Son. The Logos, the Word of God, was now going to be offered to everyone, not just the Jews ([John 10:16](#); Galatians 2:28; [Colossians 3:11](#)). Because the Word became flesh, we have a high priest who is able to empathize with our weaknesses, one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).

2. Seven Reasons Why it Was Necessary That Jesus Became Flesh

["The Word Became Flesh" Meaning and Necessity of Jesus Explained \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth John 1:14

In the opening chapter of John, we are told about this Word who is God that became flesh and dwelt among us. We know this is referring to Jesus himself. Knowing this to be true, I want to ask you a question. Have you ever stopped to think why was it necessary for Jesus to come in the flesh? Why did the God who created the heavens and the earth have to take on human form? I am going to present to you seven reasons which I believe will help to answer this question.

1. 'And the Word Became Flesh' To Reveal the Father

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them. John 17:25-26

One of the important things that Jesus did was reveal the character of the Father. Among the things he revealed about the Father was his great love and compassion. You should note that before Christ came the idea of seeing God as Father was not a very prominent teaching. In Old Testament times they understood and related to God as almighty, all-powerful, and holy. When Jesus came, he presented and revealed God as Father. This was a paradigm shift. By doing this Jesus introduced God in a way that would reveal how we would relate to him moving forward. He would be our Father, and we would be his children.

2. And the Word Became Flesh' To Be Our Example

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you John 13:15

Jesus spent approximately 33 years on this earth. He came into this world the same way we did through birth. He grew up as a child, into a teenager, then an adult. He went into ministry and eventually to death and resurrection. All along the way, he was setting an example for you and I to follow. He showed us how to pray, how to live, how to interact with those who are against you. How to teach. How to love. How to show compassion. In short, he demonstrated everything we needed to see in order to know how to live this life. If you remember a few years ago everyone was wearing WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) wristbands. The reason we could ask that question is because he showed us what to do. He was our greatest example.

3. And the Word Became Flesh' To Break the Curse

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: Galatians 3:13

To break the curse of sin it would require God to step into humanity. It would require Christ to become a curse to redeem us from the curse. Another way of thinking about it is that God couldn't conquer our sin from the outside. It had to be an inside job. To accomplish this feat, Jesus took on human flesh and became like us so that in turn he could win us back.

4. And the Word Became Flesh' To Fulfill the Requirements of the Law

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matthew 5:17

Someone had to fulfill the requirements of the law or the penalty of the law would still be in effect. In order for the requirements to be met completely, it necessitated someone to fulfill every requirement to perfection including the penalties that the law demands. Every sin had to be paid for or atoned for. No sin escapes this requirement.

By fulfilling the requirements of the law Jesus not only lived up to the standards and completed them, he ultimately became the required sacrifice that the law demands. He fulfilled the requirements of the law that you and I couldn't and paid the penalty for our sin so you and I wouldn't have to. This could only happen if Jesus came in the flesh. By the way, if you are reading this and you have not put your trust in Jesus as Savior, then you are still under the requirements of the law meaning there will be a penalty to pay for your sin.

5. And the Word Became Flesh' To Shed His Blood

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:11-14

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

One of the great reasons it was necessary for Jesus to become flesh is because he had to shed blood. The law requires that cleansing can only happen with the shedding of blood. There would be no way for Jesus to do this unless he took on human flesh. The good news about the blood he shed is that it once and for all met the requirement of the law. There is no longer any blood needed because Jesus has forever won our redemption through his precious blood. It reminds me of the words to this wonderful song.

***O Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus***

Thank God for this precious blood that is still paying for salvation to this day because this blood has never lost its power.

6. And the Word Became Flesh' To Carry Our Sin and Iniquities

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

According to God's law sin has to be atoned for. In the Old Testament, it was the blood of animals that were sacrificed on an altar that made atonement. While that was good for a temporary atonement that had no lasting eternal effect. What would be required was a greater sacrifice which is what Christ became and why Christ had to take on human form. There was no other way he could carry our sins.

7. And the Word Became Flesh' To Truly Become Our High Priest and Advocate

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

The final reason to consider is one that makes Christ so enduring and so approachable. He understands what you go through. The beauty of Christ becoming flesh and taking on human form is that he now can empathize with everything you feel. He knows what it means to be loved and rejected. Praised and criticized. To experience loyalty and betrayal. To be followed by many and to be all alone. To feel close to the Father and to feel forsaken.

In short, he knows what it is like to be human because he was. Because of his humanity, you can feel comfortable coming to him with every situation in life. There is nothing that you go through that should make you run from him. Everything you go through should cause you to run to him. In him, you will find one who is waiting to embrace you and help you because he has walked in your shoes.

Isn't it wonderful to know that you can pray to a God who knows exactly how you feel? Isn't it comforting to know that Jesus understands who you are and where you are? The fact that Jesus came in the flesh should be a source of comfort and confidence. He completed a course that we would never be

able to. In doing so he demonstrated the lengths that the Father would go to simply redeem you. What a great God and wonderful Savior we have. Let's worship him and give him the praise he deserves because truly he is worthy of it all.

3. God's Devine Love Exhibited In

- a. The giving of Christ -[John 3:16](#)
- b. The sending of Christ -[1 John 4:9](#)
- c. Christ's dying for us while sinners -[Romans 5:8](#); [1 John 4:10](#)
- d. Adoption -[1 John 3:1](#)
- e. Redemption -[Isaiah 43:3,4](#); [63:9](#)
- f. Freeness of salvation [Titus 3:4-7](#)
- g. Forgiving sin -[Isaiah 38:17](#)
- h. Quickening of souls -[Ephesians 2:4,5](#)