



God the Son

God sent Him

*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law.
Galatians 4:4*

Setting the scene

What does it really mean, *“God sent his Son ...”*? It doesn't mean that Jesus was sent by the Father in the same sense as you and I were sent somewhere by our parents when we were young. It helps to use the language of the Father sending the Son, so long as we remember the truth Jesus expressed when He said, *“I and the Father are one” John 10:30*. If Jesus Christ was not God, He could not have said these words without being guilty of blasphemy. Christ is, therefore, the Creator of all things and the Judge of all the earth. He has all the attributes of God the Father and always acts in perfect harmony with the Father.

God so loved the world that He sent His Son, and the Son so loved that He came.

From the glory

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:5

‘Glory’ is hard to define. At the very least it is freedom and honour and strength and royal right. These the Son enjoyed from eternity, before there was any creation, before coming to the world as a man. He gave all this up in order to come, not just within hailing distance of us, but completely into our condition. To speak with failing voice to a crucified thief, He had to be as near as the next cross. Now in John 17:4 He says to the Father, *“I have glorified thee”*. Christ here speaks of having completed the work which God had given Him to do, having already considered laying down His life on the cross. How would God glorify Him? The time would come when, through the preaching of His Gospel, His sacrifice would be acknowledged, and the true God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - would be worshipped by the whole world (Philippians 2:6-11).

How awful sin must be in the sight of God, when it required His Son, Jesus Christ, to undergo such humiliation in the sight of the Father and mankind to make atonement for it.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins 1 John 4:10.

Down to earth

Luke 1:32

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David Luke 1:32.

Although He was Son of the Highest, He came down to Mary at Bethlehem, into obscurity, poverty and helplessness, right down to earth. The world has changed since He came, yet only outwardly. Life is still a matter of family and work, neighbours and growing up. He entered into it, moved through its stages, without any protection from challenge, hardship and temptation.

John 1:10-11 says, ***“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him”***. The Jewish rulers knew well enough that He was a teacher come from God, but they chose not to acknowledge Him. The love of the world and the things of the world keep men from acknowledging Him who made it.

The Unique One

Colossians 1:15-20

God the Son has no equal on earth or in heaven. The term ‘only’ or ‘only begotten’ is used to say that He is ‘unique’. He is the only person born of a woman, whose human nature never came by the ordinary means of generation. He was created in the womb of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no alternative to Him. No other could reveal God. Christ perfectly reflected visibly ‘the invisible God’. Even before His incarnation, He was the image of the invisible God, as the Word (John 1:1-3) by whom God created the worlds.

For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him. Col 1:19

The majesty, power, and goodness of God was manifested in and by Christ Jesus, and through Him the Father reconciles all things to Himself.

Others might be gracious and speak truth in a limited degree but He was ***“full of grace and truth”***. Men could recognise the ‘glory’ quality in Him. It set Him apart but, strangely, it also brings Him near.

Discussion

To say of Jesus ***“God sent Him”*** is to state a belief that a heavenly being appeared as a human. We call this the Incarnation (‘in flesh’). Many have been unwilling to accept that thought, and prefer to describe Jesus as the most spiritually successful man that the world has ever known because He found God. For others the recognition that the greatest man is the Son of God has led to conversion after a long struggle. Are the two views compatible?