

# Personal Connection

## Why Christmas? **Part 1** December 13, 2009

*There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 NCV)

*There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:8-14 NIV)*

**The TRUTH is Christmas is because God Loves You.**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16NIV)*

*"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11 NASB)*

**Through the Incarnation God made a  
personal connection with all of mankind.**

**Incarnation is the act of humbling oneself to connect.**

*Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. (1 Corinthians 9:19 NIV)*

**Through This Personal Connection God Says...**

**...I am with you : Emanuel.**

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23 NIV - see also Isaiah 7:14)*

*I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your presence!*  
(Psalm 139:7 NLT)

*God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never forget you." (Hebrews 13:5b NCV)*

*When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:2-3a NLT)*

...I am for you : Salvation .

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17 NIV)*

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:2 & 6 NIV)*

*Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.  
(Ephesians 3:19 NCV)*

...I want to use you : Incarationally .

*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. (1 Corinthians 9:19 NIV)*

*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NIV)*

*And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.  
(2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT)*

## The Challenge Of Christmas

Receive God's love and gift it to others .

Jesus said, *“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”  
(John 13:34b-35 NIV)*

### MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- Receive God's love into my life for (please circle): the first time / reaffirmation.  
*(Admit: I'm a sinner. Accept: Jesus died for my sins. Ask: God forgive me. Allow: God to be Lord.)*
- Ask God to help me more fully realize His love for me.
- Pray that God will reveal incarnational opportunities & commit to responding.
- Commit to intentionally share God's love with someone this week.