

**Christmas Essentials**  
**THE ONE AND ONLY**  
**By Steve Chupp**  
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**John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. NIV*

**Is Jesus the only way to God?**

- “Larry King Live” interview
- Internet – depicts truth as relative and subject to one’s own interpretation and experience.

**The Big Idea**

It may seem arrogant and narrow-minded to proclaim Jesus is the One and Only who came *from* God and is the One and Only way *to* God, especially in today’s tolerant and pluralistic society. While we dare not claim to know all truth, we must proclaim truth that God has made obvious. Doing so in a humble yet confident manner is in keeping with the humility and certainty of the birth of God’s Son. Christmas celebrates God’s profoundly unique gift to us.

**Christmas is a great conversation opener about Jesus.**

- After all, it is “Christ-mas”
- Who was he? Who is he?
- Even people who don’t like church usually have positive things to say about Jesus.
- But is he really the One and Only?
  - Or are other religions just as valid in finding our way to God?
- Are you convinced?
  - Can you be talked out of Jesus’ unique role in salvation?
  - Many Christians deny Jesus is the only way to God.
- What’s so unique about Jesus?
  - And what does his birth reveal about him?

**John declared Jesus the One and Only. John 1:1-18**

- John was one of Jesus’ closest followers, who nonetheless had to overcome his own doubts and skepticism to conclude that Jesus is the One and Only.
- His **humanity** veiled his **divinity**.
  - His humanity was God revealed in the most comprehensible way.
  - He was so human that many missed his divinity.
  - **John 1:10-11** *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. NIV*
- So he gave many convincing proofs of who he is and that he rose from the dead.
  - There remains ample evidence for us to conclude that as well.
  - And to confidently and humbly proclaim it.

## 1. Acknowledge the One and Only's role in **creation**.

- **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* NIV
- Jesus eternally existed with God and as God.
  - There was never a time when Jesus didn't exist.
- Nothing in all creation was made without him.
  - **Colossians 1:16-17** *Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see — kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together.* NLT
- While creation is not about his birth, it sets the stage for it.
  - His role in creation makes his coming to earth as man that much more astounding.

## 2. Recognize the One and Only in the **incarnation**.

- **John 1:14**
  - *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* NIV
  - *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.* Msg
- **In creation the One and Only **created** humans.**
- **In the incarnation the One and Only **became** human.**
  - He who created became one of his creation.
  - **Hebrews 2:14-15** *Because God's children are human beings — made of flesh and blood — Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.* NLT
- When God's own Son fulfilled such a costly and awful plan, how can we merely call that plan one of many?
- "Incarnation" = becoming flesh and blood
- "Incarnation" (*wiki.answers.com*)
  - The word comes from the Latin "carne" which means "flesh".
  - The Incarnation refers to the central Christian belief that the Second Person of the Trinity took flesh of the Virgin Mary, and became truly human
  - He became human in all things except sin.
  - Christianity is the only religion that believes that God became human, flesh and blood. Some other religions teach that their god takes human form, but the god does not actually become human.
  - One must believe in the Incarnation (that Christ was truly human and truly divine) to be a Christian.
- His birth was God's One and Only act of becoming human.
- The incarnation is a Christmas Essential.

### 3. Discover the One and Only in his **revelation** of the Father.

- **John 1:18** *No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.* NIV
- **John 1:18** *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.* NKJV
- “One and Only”
  - Or, “The only begotten of the Father,” “The only Son of the Father”
- “Only begotten (*Vine's Expository Dictionary* – see below)
  - With reference to Christ, the phrase "the only begotten from the Father," indicates that as the Son of God He was the sole representative of the Being and character of the One who sent Him.
  - We can only rightly understand the term "the only begotten" when used of the Son, in the sense of unoriginated relationship. The begetting is not an event of time...but a fact irrespective of time.
  - "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son," must not be taken to mean that Christ became the only begotten son by incarnation.
- Jesus **did not become** God's Son when he was born in Bethlehem.
  - **When he was born in Bethlehem, he became man.**
  - He was God's eternal Son being born as man.

#### **You and the One and Only**

- Grasp who he is and what he said and did.
- Give your life to the One and Only who gave his life for you.
- Proclaim him confidently and humbly as the One and Only for everyone.

**Colossians 1:28** *We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less.* Msg

## **“ONLY BEGOTTEN”**

*(Vine's Expository Dictionary)*

monogenes NT:3439 is used five times, all in the writings of the apostle John, of Christ as the Son of God; it is translated "only begotten" in Hebrews 11:17 of the relationship of Isaac to Abraham.

**With reference to Christ, the phrase "the only begotten from the Father," John 1:14, RV (see also the marg.), indicates that as the Son of God He was the sole representative of the Being and character of the One who sent Him.** In the original the definite article is omitted both before "only begotten" and before "Father," and its absence in each case serves to lay stress upon the characteristics referred to in the terms used. The apostle's object is to demonstrate what sort of glory it was that he and his fellow apostles had seen. That he is not merely making a comparison with earthly relationships is indicated by para, "from." The glory was that of a unique relationship and the word "begotten" does not imply a beginning of His Sonship. It suggests relationship indeed, but must be distinguished from generation as applied to man.

**We can only rightly understand the term "the only begotten" when used of the Son, in the sense of unoriginated relationship. "The begetting is not an event of time, however remote, but a fact irrespective of time.** The Christ did not become, but necessarily and eternally is the Son. He, a Person, possesses every attribute of pure Godhood. This necessitates eternity, absolute being; in this respect He is not 'after' the Father" (Moule). **The expression also suggests the thought of the deepest affection,** as in the case of the OT word yachid, variously rendered, "only one," Genesis 22:2,12; "only son," Jeremiah 6:26; Amos 8:10; Zechariah 12:10; "only beloved," Proverbs 4:3, and "darling," Psalms 22:20; 35:17.

**In John 1:18 the clause "the only begotten son, which is in the bosom of the Father," expresses both His eternal union with the Father in the Godhead and the ineffable intimacy and love between them,** the Son sharing all the Father's counsels and enjoying all His affections. Another reading is monogenes Theos, "God only-begotten." In John 3:16 the statement, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son," **must not be taken to mean that Christ became the only begotten son by incarnation.** The value and the greatness of the gift lay in the Sonship of Him who was given. His Sonship was not the effect of His being given. In John 3:18 the phrase "the name of the only begotten son of God" lays stress upon the full revelation of God's character and will, His love and grace, as conveyed in the name of One who, being in a unique relationship to Him, was provided by Him as the object of faith. In 1 John 4:9 the statement **"God hath sent His only begotten son into the world" does not mean that God sent out into the world one who at His birth in Bethlehem had become His Son.** Cf. the parallel statement, "God sent forth the Spirit of His Son," Galatians 4:6, RV, which could not mean that God sent forth One who became His Spirit when He sent Him.