

Incarnation – The Language of Freedom

I. Pride – the Dark Gravity of Sin

It's Easy to Lose Your Freedom! Or How the Mess Began

A. God is Light & Love

1 John 1.5 This is the message ... that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4.8 ... God is love.

C. The Internal Life of the Trinity, the HEART of GOD is Love & Light — **Pure Goodness and Generosity**

Pure Freedom! This is Salvation!

D. The Soul-Killing Gravity of Sin & Pride

In astronomy, a **black hole** is a star whose gravity has become so strong it has collapsed in on itself. Nothing can escape it, not even light. At the center is a singularity, a point of infinite density and infinite gravity, which allows nothing, not even time, to escape its death grip.

The outer rim of the black hole, called the **event horizon**, is the border of eternity: anything that crosses it will never be seen or heard from again. The Bible calls **Lucifer** the “**Day Star**” and tells of his rebellion against God, his fall from heaven, and exile into hell.

Think of **pride as a spiritual form of gravity**. With Lucifer, the first rebel— that is, **the first created being to choose his own will over God's**— his immense pride collapsed on itself and formed the black hole we call hell.

All the souls in hell are small versions of black holes: they were so given over to gratifying themselves that love— symbolized by light— could barely escape the gravity of their egos. When death carries them across the **event horizon** into the afterlife, they fall into the abyss. Their personal gravity, so to speak, is so

great that here in their eternity, blinded by the absence of divine light, they cannot see beyond themselves.

D. Escaping the Black Hole

Sin is a failure of love.

We love the wrong things, or we love the right things in the wrong way.

Thinking of sin as law-breaking, as many of us do, disguises the way it works on our hearts and minds, and keeps us from dealing with it effectively.

A Better Model

Think of *love as light*, and *sin as gravity, a force that bends light*.

The stronger the gravitational field, the farther love will fall from its mark.

Hell is a black hole, where the light of love and hope doesn't shine.

Hell on Earth, Brute Beasts, Wandering Stars, Clouds without rain,
Waves tossed by winds of lust.

2 [Pet 2.12 NIV](#) But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed — an accursed brood!

17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

II. Humility – the Way of Salvation

A. The Humility of God & Purification for Sin

Phil 2.5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God,... **7** ... **emptied himself**, ... **8** ...in human form, he **humbled himself** by becoming **obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**.

Heb 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God** spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the **radiance of the glory of God** and the **exact imprint of his nature**, and he **upholds the universe** by the word of his power. After **making purification for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ...

Luke 2.7 ... she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and **laid him in a manger**, because there was **no place** for them in the inn.

John 1.1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

11 He came to his own, and **his own people did not receive him**.

Matt 20.28 ...The Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve**, and to **give his life** as a ransom for many."

B. The Humility of Mary, the Gateway for Salvation

Luke 1.26 NKJ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, **"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"**

29 But when she saw **him**, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said

to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and **shall call His name JESUS**. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “**How can this be**, since I do not know a man?”

35 And the angel answered and said to her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ...**

38 Then Mary said, “**Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.**”

B. The Humility of Joseph, the Guardian of Salvation

Matt 1.18 ... When his mother Mary had been **betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit**. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a **just man and unwilling to put her to shame**, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, **behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream**, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**.

21 She will bear a son, and you shall **call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**”
(which means, **God with us**).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, **he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him**: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

III. Salvation from the Manger to the Cross– The Generous Work of God

A. The New Creation in the Incarnation & Cross

He took on the weakness and suffering of the human condition, YET WITHOUT SIN – PRIDE!

His **HUMILITY** becomes our **SALVATION**. Our Humility - Receive **Goodness and Generosity of God** is seen in the **NEW CREATION from within Creation!**

By God becoming the **SERVANT** of those HE created!

2 Cor 5.17 NKJ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**

He became the **BLACK HOLE** of SIN for US, that we might be **GIVEN** as a **GIFT** the **GOODNESS, PURITY, GENEROSITY** of God in **HIM!**

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

B. Free from The Black Hole in Him

1 Cor 11.23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took **bread**, **24** and when he had **given thanks**, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body which is for you.** Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.** Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Luke 22.41 And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, **42** saying, “Father, if you are willing, **remove this cup from me.** Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**” **43** And there appeared to him an angel from heaven,

strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

It was *for us!*

It was TO our Father

John 20.17 ESV Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, ... but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Heb. 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Humility is the First Step to Salvation