

WHY IN THE WORLD

To Communicate and Demonstrate

Andy Stanley

Scripture: *John 1:14; 14:1-11; 1:18*

Idea: Jesus lived and taught in order to reveal the truth about the Father; to find and understand God, look to Jesus. *He accommodated to our capacity.*

Salt: Why would God leave the comfort and recognition of heaven to live on this ball of dirt in a time when the best of conditions barely paralleled the worst of modern-day conditions, before morphine, and before indoor plumbing? Why? We think we know why he died. But what compelled him to live as one of us?

Introduction

1. One of the unique things Christians believe is that *God became one of us*.
2. John, an eyewitness, who believed and then disbelieved . . . then wasn't sure what he believed [picture of John on Patmos] . . . then was exiled by Emperor Domitian to Patmos, where he had a long time to think about what he believed. Banishment kept him from becoming another Christian martyr.
3. John was banished for what he believed because of what he saw:

John 1:14 (NASB)

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt [*pitched his tent*] among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

4. Christians believe God was one of us, just a stranger on the bus—somebody who for 30 years lived undercover as a carpenter, surfaced as a miracle worker/rabbi for three years, and allowed himself to die in the most degrading way imaginable. *He came as one of us, but was treated as less than one of us.*
5. But why did he bother coming at all? Why did he become one of us?
6. The Sunday school answer is that he came to die for us. But that actually puts off the answer. That was like when you were called to the principal's office and your dad was there: "Why are you here?" "To take you home." "Okay . . . but why are you here to take me home?"
7. *Why did he come as one of us, and live as one of us, among us?*
8. Why God in a body? Nobody would make this up because nobody would believe it.
9. *In ancient times, people were trying to become gods. Why a Jewish carpenter's son?* Emperors wanted to be deified. Pharaohs. Everybody was going in God's direction.