

Heroes Part 2 – The Incarnational Model

John 1:1-5, 10-14, 18 (NIV) *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. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it...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. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God...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...No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*

John 20:21-22 (NIV) *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

You have to:

1. _____ up your _____.
(John 1:1-5,10-11; Mark 10:45)

2. Meet _____ where they _____.
(John 1:12,13; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

3. Reflect the _____ of _____
to the people around you. (John 1:14,18; John 14:8-12)

Galatians 2:20 (NIV) *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Getting Started:

1. Were you ever told that you acted, looked, or just reminded someone of someone else (i.e. maybe you look like a movie star, or act just like another family member)?
2. Who would you choose to be like? Why?

Going Deeper:

In the second week of our series on Heroes, Pastor Scott talked about something called the 'Incarnational Model'. Incarnation is the idea that a person can embody a deity. The person of Jesus was fully God and yet chose to put on human form and live among us. This incarnation was an example to us, of how we are called to live – humans, that are fully of God, living as ambassadors of hope and change.

In Colossians, the author Paul teaches on what it meant for Jesus to live incarnationally, and what it means for us to live the same way as well.

1. Read *Colossians 1:15-20*. Who is this passage referring to? What do verses 19-20 tell us is the reason for the incarnation? What does it mean to 'reconcile himself to all things'?
2. Read *Colossians 2:20*. Who is this verse referring to? Part of living incarnationally, is identifying with Christ in every aspect. What does it mean for us to 'die with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world'? What, specifically in your life, do you need to die to?
3. Read *Colossians 3:1-4*. Who is this passage referring to? What does it mean to 'set your hearts on things above'? How do you do this in your life?
4. Read *Colossians 3:12-17*. These verses list attributes that we should have in our lives if we are living the incarnational model. Grade yourself, and discuss how you are doing in the following areas listed:
 - a. Compassion
 - b. Humility
 - c. Gentleness
 - d. Patience
 - e. Forgiveness
 - f. Peace

Acting Out:

1. Write down the 2 areas from #4 that you are struggling with the most to live out the incarnational model.
2. List specific situations in your life this week, where you can practice living incarnationally in these areas.
3. Pray daily for Christ's compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and peace to be living through you this week.

Further Reading: Colossians 1 Colossians 2 Colossians 3 Colossians 4