

Five Crazy Christmas Ideas:
God is In You
John 14:16-17

God is For You – The arrival of Jesus shows us that God has the desire and ability to be for you.

God is With You – The arrival of Jesus shows us that God has the desire and the ability to be with you.

God is In You – The amazing miracle of God-with-you helps you to believe and embrace the miracle of God in you. If you can understand that God found a way to live in this world as a person, you can also believe that God is able to live in a person.

Before the Church was told about the miracle of God in you, the Church was able to experience God with us. God in you may sound far-fetched and entirely impossible but the miracle of Jesus born here prepares you to embrace God in you.

There is hope for those who don't find Christmas to be filled with all the joy that people seem to find in the season. There is hope for those who are searching for that elusive something more at Christmas.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

Notice Trinity is present in this verse:

I (God the Son) will ask the Father (God the Father) and He will give you another Counselor (God the Holy Spirit) to be with you forever.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all present in a single verse with equality. Therefore – the term “another Counselor” refers to someone who is not of a *lesser* kind but of the *same* kind. Another Counselor as in another member of the Trinity to carry on the same ministry that they had seen in Jesus with the same power they had seen in Jesus. Except there would be one main difference: Instead of having Jesus to be *with* them, they would have the Holy Spirit to be *in* them.

The power they saw in Jesus would soon reside in them.
The wisdom they saw in Jesus would soon reside in them.
The love they saw in Jesus would soon reside in them.

No wonder Jesus said it was better for them that He leaves – John 16:7.

God the Son had been *near* them. God the HS would be *in* them.

There is no greater gift that God could have given to His people than the gift of Himself in the person of the HS. To have the HS ...

Is to be enabled to know the truth of Scripture because the HS is the author of Scripture.
Is to be enabled to know forgiveness because the HS convicts us of our sin and leads us to repentance.
Is to be enabled to have God's presence at all times in all places because the HS is God.
Is to be enabled to see the power of God at work in your life because the HS is the very same person who empowered Jesus to live a perfect life.
Is to have God's power within you, changing you from the inside out.

Please also review Romans 8:9, 8:16, 15:13

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Share your general reflections from the God-In-You message?
What stood out to you the most? What challenged you?

2. Since you might not gather together over the holidays – which of the “Crazy Christmas Ideas” has been the most helpful/encouraging to you so far? In what ways? Are there any new insights into God’s Word that you have gained?

3. You may have heard Pastor Karl suggest that Christmas can present its own set of challenges. Would you mind sharing any particular challenges you face at Christmas time?

4. Contained in this message was the following statement:

God the Son had been *near* them. God the HS would be *in* them.

...what does that do for you to think in terms that God is in you?

If there is any question on God being IN the Christian, you might want to review Romans 8:9,16. Also Ephesians 1:13-14 – give notice to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

5. Have you ever experienced the ministry of the Holy Spirit changing you/helping you with attitude, perspective, heart-felt needs?