



# Knights of Columbus Council 9542

## THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

*In Service to One, In Service to All*

Of all the observations on the nature of life I have enjoyed coming across from reading the popular comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles Schulz, there is one which I have been touched by the most. In a recurring plot, the main character, a fellow named Charlie Brown, falls for a pulchritudinous peer of his known only as “The Little Red-Haired Girl.” Just being in the same room as her makes poor ole Charlie Brown tremble as he is enamored by her incredible beauty, talent, and personality... three characteristics he cannot possibly boast of his own. One day, he finds a pencil of hers and, to his astonishment, finds that it is covered in her teeth marks. This odd observation immediately causes Charlie Brown to find new confidence to pursue her and make her notice him, triumphantly exclaiming, “She’s human!”<sup>1</sup>

Especially as we approach Christmas, this simple yet amazing truth reflects upon one of the cornerstones of our Faith: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”<sup>2</sup> How much more relatable is a God Who became human! Yet often we may forget this in light of His divinity, instead placing God on a high pedestal for us to approach and gaze upon but never quite reach. We may discourage ourselves with this thinking of authentic Christian living as merely lofty ideals and unreachable standards—“speech and day dreams” according to St. Vincent Pallotti. The question, then, “What is God really like?” is answered during an exchange between Jesus and His disciple Philip: “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us,”<sup>3</sup> Philip asks, to which Jesus responds, “He who has seen me has seen the Father.”<sup>4</sup> Not only do the emotions of Jesus reflect a necessary component of the image and likeness of God that each of us is made in<sup>5</sup>, His emotions also reveal the nature of God. Believing that the written Word and the Living Word give us a trustworthy revelation of God, we know that God is in fact emotional.

Jesus felt “compassion”<sup>6</sup>, “pitied”<sup>7</sup>, and was “deeply moved”<sup>8</sup>; he was “angry”<sup>9</sup>, “indignant”<sup>10</sup>, and “consumed with zeal”<sup>11</sup>; he was “troubled”<sup>12</sup>, “greatly distressed”<sup>13</sup>, “very sorrowful”<sup>14</sup>, and

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<sup>1</sup> A *Charlie Brown Valentine*, dir. by Bill Melendez (2002; n.p.: Paramount, 2004.), DVD.

<sup>2</sup> John 1:14.

<sup>3</sup> John 14:8.

<sup>4</sup> John 14:9.

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 1:27.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 9:36.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 20:34.

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“grieved”<sup>15</sup>; he “sighed”<sup>16</sup>, “wept”<sup>17</sup>, “groaned”<sup>18</sup>, and was “in agony”<sup>19</sup>; he was “amazed”<sup>20</sup>; he “rejoiced very greatly”<sup>21</sup> and was “full of joy”<sup>22</sup>; he “greatly desired”<sup>23</sup> and he “loved.”<sup>24</sup> In our quest to be like Jesus, however, we often overlook his emotions. Jesus reveals what it means to be fully human and made in the image of God. His emotions reflect that Identity without any deficiency or distortion. When we compare our own emotional lives to His, we become aware of our need for a transformation of our emotions so that we can be fully human, as He is.

Christmas reminds us of the incredible, baffling mystery of the Incarnation—God, the Creator of the universe humbled Himself by taking on human form! From the time Christ lay upon the wood of the manger through His expiration on the wood of the Cross, we see and are able to relate to not just the idealization of humanity, but how to endure life’s pains, sorrows, and tribulations as well as its joys and triumphs. If we are the body of Christ, created and redeemed to represent Jesus in the world, then we, like St. Paul, need to “gaze upon him”<sup>25</sup> and learn to reflect the emotions of Jesus. Then we can know Him, and in knowing Him know God, and know ourselves as we were created to be.

May God bless you, and God love you! Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Fraternally,

SK Thomas Wong

<sup>8</sup> John 11:38.

<sup>9</sup> Mark 3:5.

<sup>10</sup> Mark 10:14.

<sup>11</sup> John 2:17.

<sup>12</sup> John 12:27.

<sup>13</sup> John 13:21.

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 26:38.

<sup>15</sup> Mark 3:5.

<sup>16</sup> Mark 7:34.

<sup>17</sup> John 11:35.

<sup>18</sup> John 11:33.

<sup>19</sup> Luke 22:44.

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 8:10, cf. Mark 6:6.

<sup>21</sup> Luke 10:21.

<sup>22</sup> John 15:11.

<sup>23</sup> Luke 22:15.

<sup>24</sup> Mark 10:21.

<sup>25</sup> Hebrews 12:2.

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