

INCARNATIONAL TRADITION: FORMED BY SACRAMENT

Various Scripture Passages

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5 & 6 March 2025

Intro

The incarnational tradition concerns itself with the relationship between spirit and matter. It emphasizes experiencing God's presence through the material and ordinary means of life. This tradition invites believers to see the world as "sacramental," where physical elements and actions convey spiritual realities.

Biblical Foundations

1. The Goodness of Creation. (Gen 1-2)
2. Jesus' incarnation (John 1:14, Phil. 2:6-8, Gal. 4:4-5) for the purpose of the redemption of our creation. (Rom. 8:19-21, Col 1:19-20)
3. Jesus meets us in and through the created order as a visible sign of the life he brings (Jn 2:1-11, Mk 5:23, 6:5, 6:41-44, Mk 8:23).
 - "Sacrament" – 'an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace.' (Augustine)
 - Baptism (Mk 1:9-10, Matt. 28:19) and Holy Communion (Mk. 14:22-23)
4. Jesus sends us out into the world as "means of His grace" to do all things for His glory. (Matt. 5:13-16, Col. 3:17, c.f. 18-25)

The Incarnational Tradition

1. Medieval (Gothic) Architecture as a Window into the Transcendent.
2. The Rise of the Medicants and other Lay Movements.

Incarnational Practices

1. Regular partaking of the sacraments
2. Observe Liturgy and the Christian Calendar
3. Cultivate Thankfulness.
4. Creation Care
5. Serve God in our Daily Vocation

Potential Pitfalls

1. Idolatry
2. Superstition

Response

Will we open ourselves to receiving more of God's grace and to be conduits of His grace to others in our everyday lives?