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Andrew Purves on the Incarnation

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." In this light we find it helpful to look at the writings of other Christians who have expressed the gospel clearly.

Andrew Purves has this to say about the universal nature of the incarnation:

Let us reflect briefly on the incarnation, the *becoming carnal* of God. The incarnation is the downward movement of God by which God as one particular man enters history by becoming part of God's own creation but without ceasing to be God. It is the event in which faith associates the eternal God with a contingent fact of history and attributes a saving significance to it. It is summed up in one staggering sentence from John's Gospel: "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). God saves in a human way precisely as this man Jesus. Here is the truly amazing claim of Christian faith. We must not back away one bit from its particularity and universality. . . This salvation penetrates to the depths of the human condition. The atonement is not an external work of God upon us which leaves our humanity untouched, but an act of God personally from within the depth of our humanity and on our behalf. ~ *The Crucifixion of Ministry*, pp. 60-61. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.