

1 Timothy 3:16 “GOD was manifest in the flesh” or the Vatican Versions' "He"?

Gardner Den Palma Improso posts: "I would like to address this verse to Will Kinney and find out why God who is manifested in the FLESH is also JUSTIFIED in the Spirit."

1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, JUSTIFIED in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Why would God needed to be declared righteous in the Spirit if He is and always be without sin?

Let us see how KJV "justifies" God."

Hi Gardner. Good question, and very easy to answer. This verse is one of the most critical verses in the whole Bible version issue. The reading of "GOD was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit..." has massive and almost universal support among all manuscripts, early versions and church fathers. It is only the modern Vatican Versions like the ESV, NIV, NASB, Jehovah Witness and all Catholic versions either follow an extremely minority reading of "who" or just make one up out of thin air - "he", and read something like "who (he) was manifest in a body". Nothing special here. EVERYBODY has been manifest in the flesh or a body!

But when the word of God tells us that GOD was manifest in the flesh, we know right away and very clearly that the Lord Jesus Christ is none other that GOD Almighty. This important witness to His full Deity is removed in the Vatican versions.

The word "justify" does NOT mean "to make righteous"; it simply means to show to be righteous. For example, when Scripture says "wisdom is justified of her children" (Matthew 11:19) or where it is said of God Himself "that thou mayest be justified in thy sayings" (Romans 3:4) it does not mean to "make" wisdom righteous or to make God righteous but rather the children (the results) of wisdom, or God Himself, are shown to be what it in fact they already are, that is, righteous.

The Lord Jesus Christ, being GOD manifest in the flesh, was SHOWN TO BE RIGHTEOUS by the Spirit. He was revealed to be Who and what He always was, righteous.

The KJB and every major Reformation bible in history are correct in saying "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit".

áThese include Tyndale 1525 - "God was shewed in the flesshe was iustified in the sprete was sene of angels was preached vnto the gentylys was beleved on in erth and receaved vp in glory.", Coverdale 1535, the Great Bible 1540, Matthew's Bible 1549, the Bishops' Bible 1568, the Geneva Bible 1587 - "God is manifested in the flesh, iustified in the Spirit, seene of Angels, preached vnto the Gentiles, beleueed on in the world, and receiued vp in glorie."

All foreign language Reformation Bibles also read the same way.á His is a partial list: Luther's German Bible of 1545 - "Gott ist offenbaret im Fleisch, gerechtfertiget im Geist", French Martin 1744 and Ostervald 1996 - "Dieu a ÚtÚ manifestÚ en chair, justifiÚ en

Esprit", the Italian Diodati 1649 and New Diodati 1991 - "Dio Ð stato manifestato in carne, Ð stato giustificato nello Spirito", the Spanish Sagradas Escrituras 1569 and the Reina Valera 1909, 1960, 1995 - "Dios se ha manifestado en carne; ha sido justificado con el Esp ritu", the Portuguese Almeida 1681 - " Deus se manifestou em carne, foi justificado no Esp rito", the Dutch SV1637 - "En buiten allen twijfel, de verborgenheid der godzaligheid is groot: **God is geopenbaard in het vlees, is gerechtvaardigd in den Geest**, is gezien van de engelen, is gepredikt onder de heidenen, is geloofd in de wereld, is opgenomen in heerlijkheid." and the Modern Greek as well as the Greek Orthodox New Testament used throughout the Greek speaking churches today all agree -
???? ?????????? ?? ?????, ?????????? ?? ?????????? = "GOD was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit."

See the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America site here -
<http://www.goarch.org/en/chapel/biblegreek/>

Also agreeing with the King James Bible reading of "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit" are the NKJV 1984, the Third Millennium Bible 1998, John Wesley's translation 1755, the Worsley Version 1770, Webster's translation 1833, the Calvin Bible 1855, Darby 1890, Young's, the Afrikaans bible 1953 - "God is geopenbaar in die vlees, is geregverdig in die Gees", the Dutch Staten Vertaling bible - "God is geopenbaard in het vlees", the German Elberfelder 1905 - "Gott ist geoffenbart worden im Fleische", the Chinese Union Traditional version, and the Russian Zhuromsky New Testament. Now, by way of contrast, let's show how the Catholic versions and the new "Catholic" versions render this verse.

Jehovah Witness New World Translation 1961 – "HE was made manifest in flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in the world, was received up in glory."

By the way, there is absolutely NO Greek manuscripts that read "HE". These modern Vatican versions have just made it up because the texts they follow don't make any sense by saying "WHO was manifest in the flesh". There is no antecedent for the word "who". "The mystery of godliness" is a thing, not a person.

NIV 1984 edition – "HE appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit..."

NASB 1995 edition – "HE WHO was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit..."

RSV – "HE was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit..."

ESV 2001 – "HE (R10) was manifested in the flesh, vindicated (R11) by the Spirit..."
Footnote 10 -Greek Who; some manuscripts God; others Which. Footnote 11 - Or justified

Holman Standard 2003 – "HE was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit"

ISV (International Standard Version) – "In flesh was HE revealed to sight, Kept righteous by the Spirit's might"

Catholic Douay-Rheims – "And evidently great is the mystery of godliness WHICH was manifested in the flesh, was justified in the spirit, appeared unto angels,"

St. Joseph New American Bible 1970 – “HE was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit...”

Catholic New Jerusalem bible 1985 – “HE was made visible in the flesh, justified in the Spirit...”

The KJB is right, as always, and your modern Vatican Versions are wrong, as usual.

Will Kinney

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