

“The Glory of the Incarnation”

Matt. 1:18-25

12-18-16 Sun PM

Today we discuss the truth that Jesus is the God-man who was virgin born. We must believe in the virgin birth to hold true to the Doctrine of Christ. Believing the humanity of Christ [incarnation] is as important as believing the deity of Christ.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **14.** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Some believe two persons actually indwelt the body of Jesus- The divine person and the human person. **Some believe** both natures merged into a third person totally different from the original natures.

I. The Incarnation Defined.

Strong’s Systematic Theology states, “In the one person, Jesus Christ, there are two natures, a human nature and a divine nature, each in its completeness and integrity, and these two natures are organically an unmixed, yet so that no third nature is formed thereby.”

Wayne Grudem states in his Systematic Theology, “Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man in one person, and forever will be.”

The Moody Handbook of Theology states, “The word incarnation means “in flesh” and denotes the act whereby the eternal Son of God took to Himself an additional nature, humanity, through the virgin birth.

The virgin birth was necessary for Jesus to be sinless. If Joseph was the father Jesus would possess a sin nature. Also, it was a sign to identify the birth of God’s Son.

The virgin birth was the means of the incarnation. Christ took on a human nature and remains deity and humanity united in one person forever. He is the God-man.

Two natures are inseparably united without mixture or loss of separate identity. Christ had two distinct natures with no mixture or intermingling of the two natures- One person with two natures.

Both natures are necessary for salvation. As a man, Christ represented man and died as a man; as God the death of Christ could provide salvation to all who believe.

II. The Incarnation Explained.

1. **It is a miracle** that God the Son could take upon himself the full nature of man and yet retains the full nature of God- 100% God and 100% man.

Theologians call this the *Hypostatic Union*. He was as much God as if He had never been man, and as much man as if he had never been God.

2. **It is a miracle** that a human body could be conceived within a mother's womb without an earthly father.

The miracle of the virgin birth was not in the actual birth, but the conception of Christ's earthly body.

3. **It is a miracle** that Christ will continue to manifest himself in this glorified resurrected body throughout the ages. This is called the perpetuity of the incarnation.

III. The Incarnation Promised.

Isaiah 7:14, Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

IV. The Incarnation Required.

1. To reveal the invisible God.

John 14:19 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

2. To fulfill prophecy.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

3. To guarantee the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

Luke 1:32-33, He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **(33)** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

4. To make a sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

5. To reconcile man to God.

1 Tim. 2: 5-6 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

6. To destroy the Devil and his works.

Heb. 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.

7. To escape the curse.

Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is eternal God in the flesh and virgin born.