

The Incarnation

John 1:14–18

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . .”
(John 1:14).

Our heads ache at the thought of the incarnation (that is, God becoming one of us)! Man wants to be God—that, we surely understand. What we cannot understand is that the sovereign, infinite, immutable, eternal God became man . . . as a helpless baby! Only God could think of this! Only He could do this! This amazing fact is expressed in the Gospel of John through two unforgettable sentences: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”; “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:1, 14a).

THE SON OF GOD BECAME MAN!

Jesus is the *only* mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5, 6). He is the living bread from heaven (John 6:48–58). On the holy mountain God said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” (Matthew 17:5; see 2 Peter 1:17, 18). The incarnation is the “miracle of miracles.”

The heavenly Son of an earthly mother,
The earthly Son of a heavenly Father,
So divine, not human,
So human, not divine.

Jesus Christ could not be invented. God wrapped the truth of salvation in Jesus and sent Him to walk among us! Jesus never rebuked anyone who called Him God or worshiped Him. We could say that the coming of Christ in bodily form, as a man, is the heart of the Scriptures. Jesus is the *Logos*—the Living Word of God, who became a man! We believe that Jesus is God, but we must also believe that God is the human Jesus!

Christianity is essentially historical. It is not “the myth among myths,” an allegory without substance. The greatest of all truths is that Jesus became one of us, lived as our example, taught us the truth of God, and died for us to bring us to God.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The deity of Jesus is unavoidably connected with the virgin birth (Matthew 1:18–25). If both parents of Jesus had been human, then His blood would have been as worthless as ours. He could not have resurrected Himself or anyone else. Hugo McCord said, “Christianity without the virgin birth becomes a religion without salvation by the blood and without a resurrection. It is reduced simply to a social gospel for this life only.”¹

Man probably stumbles more over Christ’s humanity than His deity. While human, Jesus did not merely go through the motions of being a man, as if performing in

¹Hugo McCord, “Jesus: Our Eternal Savior,” in “Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God,” *Truth for Today* (May 2000): 6.

a play on a stage. In the garden real sweat dropped like blood from His face (Luke 22:44). His favorite title for Himself was “Son of Man,” which is found more than eighty times in the New Testament. The deity of Jesus is best demonstrated by His humanity.

Sometimes we greet good news with skepticism, yet bad news we swallow at once. We do not have to prove absolute truth. Absolute truth proves itself. God is not running to be elected God. He *is* God. That is truth. The prime needs of religion today are doctrine, theology, and truth!

JESUS IS LORD

This Christ who became Man also was made Lord! Paul wrote,

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9–11).

This fact of His Lordship is so simple, yet so profound! Think of it: We pray to God, whom we cannot see, and expect to go to heaven on the virtue of His Son, whom we have not seen in the flesh. The way up is down; we empty ourselves to be full. We confess being wrong to be made right. The strongest are the weakest; the poorest, the richest. We die to live and give to get.

The middle cross at Calvary was not Christ’s—it belonged to all of us. Dying was Jesus’ reason for becoming man. The entire emphasis of John’s Gospel Account is the

eternal significance of Jesus. The power to live the Epistles is found in the story of the cross in the Gospels.

This truth expresses the “amazing grace” of God. In the incarnation Jesus eternally connected Himself with humanity. We were never God and never will be God! Jesus was *both* totally humbled and totally exalted. His exaltation did not destroy His humanity; rather, it glorified His humanity.

*The cross . . .
there is no other way!*