

Incarnation of Jesus

Philippians 2:6-7

So, Jesus was born in a manger! Same Jesus who died on the cross! Same Jesus who will come back to reign for 1000 years. Same Jesus who was there at the creation of the world.

On the surface it sounds easy doesn't it. God's son is born in a manger. But think about it, He was alive before He was born. He was alive before Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Think about this.

Jesus is God. His powers were used in creating all of creation. He holds it together. He's hanging out in heaven with all those powers, knowing everything and His Father comes into the room and says, "Son, guess where you are going to be for the next 9 months?"

Check this out:

Philippians 2:6-7, "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself

nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

This is the incarnation, which means God comes in the flesh. 100% God and 100% human at the same time.

Free Church theologian Wayne Grudem writes this:

"Jesus was fully God and fully man in one person," though not a contradiction, it is a paradox that we cannot fully understand in this age and perhaps not for all eternity."

Regarding the difficulty in understanding this doctrine Grudem goes on to write:

"Our proper response is not to reject the clear and central teaching of Scripture about the incarnation, but simply to recognize that it will remain a paradox, that this is all that God has chosen to reveal to us about it, and that it is true."

This doctrine of the incarnation was addressed in the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD. It supported the Council of Ephesus, The Nicene Creed of 325 AD and the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD.

Here is the wording of the Council of Chalcedon on the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

“Following, then, the holy Fathers, we all unanimously teach that our Lord Jesus Christ is to us One and the same Son, the Self-same Perfect in Godhead, the Self-same Perfect in Manhood; truly God and truly Man; the Self-same of a rational soul and body; co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead, the Self-same co-essential with us according to the Manhood; like us in all things, sin apart; before the ages begotten of the Father as to the Godhead, but in the last days, the Self-same, for us and for our salvation (born) of Mary the Virgin as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the difference of the Natures being in no way removed because of the Union, but rather the properties of each Nature being preserved, and (both) concurring into One Person and One Hypostasis; not as though He was parted or divided into Two Persons, but One and the Self-same Son and Only-begotten God, Word, Lord, Jesus Christ; even as from the beginning the prophets have taught concerning Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself

hath taught us, and as the Symbol of the Fathers hath handed down to us.”

The two natures of Jesus are a wonderful, beautiful mixture of God and humanity. One that is also a mystery for us to completely understand. But on this Christmas Eve might it be enough to simply acknowledge that God came down to take on the form of a man to save the world. Even when that form of a man is in the package of a baby boy.

Let’s go back to that passage in:

Philippians 2:6-7, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Let’s keep reading onto verse 8.

Philippians 2:8, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

That’s not the kind of God the world creates. No one would imagine a God or a King that sacrifices all for

His followers. But that is who my God is! There is no greater love from anyone that out loves my God.

Now, here's the truth on this Christmas Eve. This same God who loves me loves you! He loves you and wants to have a relationship with you.

A relationship with God is better than any human relationship that we can possibly have. Better than any boyfriend or girlfriend. Better than any spouse we can possibly imagine. Better than even the love a parent has for a child because He is perfect and loves us perfectly.

Will you accept the perfect gift that God has offered you this Christmas Eve? Will you accept the gift of Jesus?