

## CHRISTOLOGY (15)

2) Isaiah 7:14 - Here is language that is very strange, because it speaks of a virgin giving birth to a son. Liberal theologians attempt to say that a better translation of the word “virgin” would be “young woman.” However, as Dr. Ryrice points out concerning this word, “There is no instance where it can be proved that “almah” designates a young woman who is not a virgin” (*Basic Theology*, p. 242).

There are some major biblical and historical proofs that Mary, indeed, was a virgin in her conception of Jesus Christ:

1. Mary’s reaction to Gabriel clearly testifies that she indeed was a virgin. Lk. 1:27-34–note 34.
2. Gabriel’s reaction to Mary clearly testifies that she was a virgin. Lk. 1:34-38
3. Joseph’s willingness to marry Mary testifies she was a virgin. Mt. 1:18-23  
(Joseph did not stone her nor put her away)
4. Luke’s careful research of the facts testifies she was a virgin (Lk. 1:1-4)  
Keep in mind Luke is a medical doctor (Col. 4:14). We may be certain that if Luke did not know for certain that this was objective truth, he would have never put this into print because he knew the rest of the medical world would scrutinize his record.
5. Jesus Christ was eventually killed because of His claim that God was His Father, not a man. John 5:18

Each of these facts leads us to the conclusion that Jesus Christ was indeed born of a virgin.

3) Galatians 4:4 - Here again is evidence of the unique Person of Jesus Christ. Both natures are seen. It was God who ordained the exact time of His Son’s birth. It was God who sent His Son, but He did it through a woman.

4) Hebrews 2:14 (9-14) - It is clear that the work of Jesus Christ had tremendous eternal value and this value is in part due to His humanity. (See Hebrews 1:1-3.)

5) Romans 8:3 - This verse is particularly crucial to the doctrine of Jesus Christ, because it not only establishes that He was a Person, but it also clearly establishes that He was made, not in sinful flesh like we are, but in the likeness of sinful flesh. Jesus Christ did not have a sin nature. He was a legitimate, real Person, but He was also perfect Deity—He was God (Col. 1:19; 2:9). Jesus Christ had everything other men have with the exception of a sin nature (Heb. 4:15). Although He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, He did not have a sinful flesh.

Jesus Christ did not just indwell a human body, He actually became a human being; but at the same time He was also fully God. He had every physical attribute that human beings have with the exception of a sin nature. Jesus Christ is the only theanthropic (God-man) Person to ever live in history. He is the only Person who is truly God and truly man. This truth is critical and foundational to the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

## CHRISTOLOGY (16)

**QUESTION #8** – What are the proofs that Jesus Christ was truly man?

This question, in itself, demonstrates how unique Jesus Christ is, for in no other instance does an effort need to be made to prove a human is in fact a human.

**Proof #1** - The proof of direct statement . Jn. 1:14; I Tim. 2:5; I Jn. 4:2-3

The Bible specifically and directly states that Jesus Christ was truly a man.

**Proof #2** - The proof of normal growth . Lk. 2:40, 46, 52

Jesus Christ grew and was subject to the ordinary laws of physical development, just like everyone else. He went through the natural process of maturation, and in every instance He was always in the favor of God.

**Proof #3** - The proof of human characteristics .

There are not many references to the way Christ looked, but from certain passages we may conclude that He had normal human characteristics.

- 1) He looked like the average Jew . John 4:9
- 2) He had a normal body composition . Heb. 2:14
- 3) He had a soul . Matt. 26:38
- 4) He had a spirit . Lk. 23:46

Since Jesus Christ was comprised of a body, soul and spirit, we must come to the conclusion that He was a real human being. He was a real man.

**Proof #4** - The proof of human need .

The human need side of Jesus Christ occurs in non-moral issues, for in moral issues He had no need. Jesus Christ had the same bodily and emotional needs as any other human, which establishes His true humanity.

- 1) He became hungry . Mt. 4:2
- 2) He became thirsty . Jn. 19:28
- 3) He became tired . Jn. 4:6
- 4) He needed to sleep . Mt. 8:24
- 5) He became emotional . Lk. 19:41, 45
- 6) He sometimes wept . Lk. 19:41; Jn. 11:35

Jesus Christ had the same non-moral needs as every other human—proving He was human! To deny Christ's true physical nature is the mark of the spirit of the antichrist (I Jn. 4:2, 3).

## CHRISTOLOGY (17)

### **Proof #5** - The proof of human titles .

There are certain titles given to Christ which testify of His humanity.

- 1) Matt. 8:20 - Here is one of the many places where Christ is called “son of man.” From the following context (8:23-27), the disciples knew He was a totally unique man.
- 2) John 4:29 - A Samaritan woman clearly recognized that Jesus Christ was a man and also the Messiah.
- 3) I Tim. 2:5 - It is plainly stated in this verse that Jesus Christ, the mediatorial link between God and man, was in fact a man.
- 4) Isaiah 53:3 - This important prophetic picture of Jesus Christ makes it very clear He would be a real, human male.
- 5) Matt. 1:21 - The name Jesus was a somewhat common name in the N.T. world. It was a human name which actually was derived from the O.T. name Joshua, meaning the one who delivers or the one who saves. A text such as Col. 4:11 makes it clear that Jesus was a human name, given to human beings.
- 6) Acts 2:22 - This verse proves that not only did He have a real name, but He was from a real city.
- 7) Mark 6:3 - This verse identifies Christ by the title “carpenter.” Those who lived with Him saw Him as a real human. Tradition says that Joseph died while Jesus was still a young man and He took over the responsibilities of Joseph’s carpenter shop.

There can be little doubt from various names and titles ascribed to Christ that He was a real human.

### **Proof #6** - The proof of human suffering .

The suffering of Jesus Christ was brutal. When we study the actual facts of it, it is evident that He was suffering in a real human body. He was treated in the most degrading manner:

- 1) He was spit upon. Matt. 27:30; 26:67
- 2) He was beaten on the head with a reed. Matt. 27:30
- 3) He was beaten by people’s fists and slapped. Matt. 26:67
- 4) He was scourged. Jn. 19:1
- 5) He was crowned with thorns. Jn. 19:2
- 6) He was nailed to a cross and killed. Lk. 23:32-46

To deny Christ’s humanity is to deny the Bible. He was God incarnate—God in the flesh!

## CHRISTOLOGY (18)

**QUESTION #9** – What are the purposes of the incarnation?

Why did Jesus Christ, the second member of the Godhead, become a man? Why did Jesus Christ take to Himself fleshly humanity and become a human? When we carefully search the Scriptures, we discover there were many reasons why Jesus Christ came to this earth in the flesh:

**Reason #1** - To reveal God to man in concrete ideas, examples and realities. Jn. 1:18; 14:7-11; Col. 1:15

Dr. Charles Ryrie makes a good point when he writes: “Because He became a man, the revelation of God was personalized; because He is God, that revelation is completely truthful” (*Basic Theology*, p. 244).

**Reason #2** - To provide an example and pattern for our lives. I Pet. 2:21; I Jn. 2:6; Jn. 13:14-16

Every believer is expected to pattern himself after Jesus Christ. Christ left an example for us to follow and He has given us the power to follow His example.

**Reason #3** - To provide a complete and final sacrifice for sin. Heb. 10:1-10

Again Dr. Ryrie’s words are worth considering—“Without the Incarnation, we would have no Savior. Sin requires death for its payment. God does not die. So the Savior must be human in order to be able to die. But the death of an ordinary man would not pay for the sin externally, so the Savior must also be God. We must have a God-man Savior and we do in our Lord” (p. 245).

**Reason #4** - To destroy the work of the devil. I Jn. 3:8

It is clearly revealed in the Word of God that Satan did not want Jesus Christ born (Rev. 12:4). As soon as Christ was born, Satan, working through the political forces of Herod, attempted to kill Him (Mt. 2:1-16). Satan knew that once Christ was born, he was defeated in that sin could no longer dominate, death could no longer reign and ultimately Satan and his forces would be destroyed. The presence of Jesus Christ on this earth was the ultimate threat to Satan and his demonic army. In fact, Christ’s presence caused those forces to fear (Lk. 4:34, 41; 8:28). Once Christ got to Calvary and arose from the dead, Satan knew that his hold on sinners and this sinful world was beginning to slip away. He knows now that it is just a matter of time until he and his forces are cast into eternal fire (Mt. 25:41).

**Reason #5** - To be the perfect High Priest forever. Heb. 4:14-16; 7:23-28

Jesus Christ is the perfect High Priest who can identify and sympathize with our weaknesses and infirmities. He represents us perfectly before God the Father in that He completely understands our limitations and ministers in our behalf not only as a priest who offered a sacrifice, but as a priest who was our sacrifice. As the perfect high priest he had to be human and perfect.