

# CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 7

"God With Man is Now Residing"

8 March 2020

## Introduction: Knowing Our Own Story

- The fallen world in which we live does not simply present to people a set of "bad" ideas that we can counteract with "good" ideas. Rather, it presents to people a comprehensive way of life (a culture) that invites them to orient their lives within a particular story of the world (albeit a false one). Christian witness must therefore be equally comprehensive in the truth that it presents!

"At this moment in the Church's history in this country (and in the West more generally) it is less urgent to convince the alternative culture in which we live of the truth of Christ than it is for the Church to tell itself its own story and to nurture its own life, the culture of the city of God, the Christian republic." —Robert Lewis Wilken, "The Church as Culture"

**Key Point:** At the heart of our story as the Church is the historical fact that the God of all creation entered into our world, born as we are, in order that He might be our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED  
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY  
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;  
AND IN JESUS CHRIST  
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,  
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,  
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE DEAD  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE  
FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE  
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.  
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;  
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;  
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.  
AMEN.

## The Person of the Son

"You must understand why it is that the Word of the Father, so great and so high, has been made manifest in bodily form. He has not assumed a body as proper to His own nature, far from it, for as the Word He is without body. He has been manifested in a human body for this reason only, out of the love and goodness of His Father, for the salvation of us men." - Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word of God* (4th C.)

### His Incarnation

- We believe that the Son added *humanity* to His person.

John 1:1,14—<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

⇒ *Jesus did not \_\_\_\_\_ to be God when He became incarnate.*

#### Vital Theological Truths

- Jesus Christ has two distinct natures: humanity and divinity.
- There is not mixture or intermingling of the two natures.
- Although He always has two natures, Jesus Christ is one Person.

"We express Christ's unique Being in the theological term 'hypostatic union.' 'Union' refers to the perfect uniting of His deity and His humanity. 'Hypostatic' is a word expressing one's basic substance or essence. Derived from the Greek words meaning 'to stand out under,' it is an appropriate term to describe Christ's unique Person; for He stands apart from anyone or anything else." —Richard Barth, *Basis Bible Doctrine*

**Key Point:** Jesus' incarnation means that He has chosen to share our humanity \_\_\_\_\_.

- We believe that Jesus is *distinct* from us in His humanity because He did not have a biological father.

Matt. 1:20—But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

⇒ *Although Jesus' miraculous conception recalls certain unique \_\_\_\_\_ in the OT (Isaac, Samuel, Samson), His is distinguished from all others because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

⇒ *This identified Jesus with the only other man in Scripture not to have a human father, \_\_\_\_\_.*

Gen. 2:7—then the Lord God formed the man (Heb.—'ha adam'; Gk.—'ho anthropos') of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

#### Jesus as the True & Better Adam

- Jesus is portrayed as the "son" of God who does not fail when \_\_\_\_\_ by Satan. (Luke 3-4)

Luke 3:22—and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:38—the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

2. The title that Jesus most often used to refer to Himself recognized His relationship to Adam.

Matt. 16:13—*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*

\* This title is used over 80 times throughout the Gospels. In Aramaic, it can be a way of referring to oneself, but in Greek (‘ho hios tou anthropou’) it literally translates to “the son of the man.”

3. The NT authors recognize the theological importance of this for us and our salvation.

Rom. 5:18-19—<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

1 Cor. 15:45—*Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

**Key Point:** Although Jesus took on true humanity, it was the humanity like that of Adam before he \_\_\_\_\_.

- We believe that Jesus is like us in His humanity because He had a biological mother.

Luke 2:4-7—<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee... <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⇒ Jesus was the true biological \_\_\_\_\_ of those to whom God had made great and wonderful promises.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:15)      2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 15:17-21; 22:17-18)      3. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 7:12-17)

⇒ Jesus’ biological family was characterized by all of the \_\_\_\_\_ associated with life in a fallen world.

**Key Point:** Although Jesus experienced brokenness of the world as a result of human sin, He Himself remained \_\_\_\_\_, qualifying Him to serve as the Redeemer of all mankind.

## Concluding Thoughts

1. Through His incarnation, Jesus made the \_\_\_\_\_ of mankind possible.

Rom. 5:15—*But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

1 Tim. 2:5-6—<sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

2. Through His incarnation, Jesus affirmed the goodness of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 19:4-5—<sup>4</sup>He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup>and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

Luke 2:7a—*And she gave birth to her firstborn son...*

3. Through His incarnation, Jesus made clear the necessity of \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Cor. 13:4a—*For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God.*

Heb. 2:14—*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,*