WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ... CHRIST'S INCARNATION

Our doctrinal statement is in most elements taken directly from the doctrinal statement of the IFCA International. As we turn this week from the teachings on the Bible, the Trinity, and God the Father, we take us the first part of what is said regarding the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God.

We are suggesting on this statement that we drop the word "that" or substitute the phrase "the Bible teaches." In our study this week, we want to see that the Bible teaches that,

... the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35).

The two basic truths of this statement are that the Son was always God *and* became a man, without ceasing in any way to be divine. This is quite the opposite of how His disciples first encountered the man Jesus.

1. What would have been the disciples first impressions of Jesus (*John 1:29-39 see Luke 1:36*, 39-41; *John 2:2*; *Mark 4:38*)?

- 2. What was their later impressions of Jesus (Matthew 16:16; John 20:28)?
- 3. How would you go about proving that Jesus always was God (John 1:1-4)?

Here are some other verses that you may wish to use in your answer to this question and the next question:

John 8:53, 58 with Exodus 3:14	Matthew 18:20	Colossians 1:16
Romans 9:5	Matthew 28:20	Mark 2:5-12
Titus 2:13	John 2:24-25	John 10:28
Hebrews 1:8	John 6:64	John 5:22, 27
1 John 5:20	Philippians 3:20-21	John 14:14

4. How would you prove that He did not cease to be God when He was conceived and born?

- 5. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be God and man in order to reveal God?
- 6. How is the incarnation important to our redemption?
- 7. How did the eternal Son of God take on flesh (*Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; see Isaiah* 7:14)?
- 8. How would you answer those who contend that Mary was a perpetual virgin?

Bible Center's Current Articles of Faith can be accessed in full at <u>www.biblecenter.org/mod/entity-</u><u>information/view-key.php?keytype=Statement</u>. Below is the statement of the Council of Chalcedon:

Our Lord is truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body, consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days for us and for our salvation born of the Virgin Mary, the mother of God according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably, the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved and concurring in one person and one subsistence; not parted or divided into two persons but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God, the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.¹

¹David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, <u>God the Father, God the Son</u> (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1996), 281–282.