



The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth

The Light of the World

God in the Flesh (Part 1)

Two Questions...

1. *Why a celebration?*
2. *What Does 'Incarnation' Mean?*
1 Tim 3:16; 1 Jn 4:2-3; Col 1:21-22

I. Why is the Incarnation so important?

Christology and Soteriology
Who Christ is will determine what He is able to do!

II. What is the Incarnation?

- The Hypostatic Union *Heb 1:3*
Full humanity and full deity *Col 2:8-9; Jn 1:1, 14*

III. Biblical Nature of the Incarnation

The Virgin Birth of the Messiah (Christ) on Earth

1. Full humanity

1 Tim 2:5; Heb 2:14, 17; 1 Jn 4:2; Heb 2:17-18
Jesus had to be human in order to die, and in order to be a true mediator-priest who could represent humanity before God!

- a. Sinless humanity *2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 Jn 3:5*
Jesus had to be morally blameless in order to be able to die for others!

- Could Jesus fall to temptation?
Some say: God can't be tempted [*Jas 1:13*], Jesus is God [*Col 2:9*], therefore Jesus could not sin.

However: Jesus was also human and humans are tempted! [*Mat 4*]

Therefore: Jesus was tempted, yet He did not sin. *But He did become sin for us.*

2. Full deity

- a. Jesus' claims and the response...
 - 1a. Claim: *Jn 5:17* — Response *Jn 5:18*
 - 2a. Claim: *8:58* — Response *Jn 8:59*
 - 3a. Claim: *Jn 10:30* — *Jn 10:31*
- b. The Apostolic witness
 - 1b. Author of Hebrews 1:3-10
 - 2b. John's view *Jn 1:1, 14*
 - 3b. Paul's view *Col 2:9; Phil 2:6*

Light: The Power of the Incarnation

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
Jesus: *John 8:12*



Tradition: Lighting candles and Christmas lights!

Truth: You are the light of the world! *Matt 5:14*

A. The Truth: God Became Flesh

Everything we are and believe depends on this

1. The Word was God *John 1:1*
Jesus Christ the Messiah is God
2. The Word became flesh *John 1:14*
Jesus Christ the Messiah is Man

B. Light: The Power of the Incarnation

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overcome] it. Jn 1:5

The darkness of the world cannot overcome or triumph over the Light of the world.

But how can we be sure of this?

1. The Light is alive *John 1:4*

- This kind of light reproduces itself in the lives of others so that they become "...sons of light." *John 12:36*
- This light is full of power *Acts 26:18*

2. The Light Created All Things *John 1:3*

- The powers of darkness CANNOT be as strong as the power of light since the power of light created all things including the darkness. No created thing is more powerful than its creator.

3: The Light is God *John 1:1*

- Not only is the light a living light, and not only is the life of this light the life of God's Word through whom He created all things, but this Word, this life, this light, IS GOD! **And God Almighty cannot be overcome.**

Continued next week: 'Kenosis' and the Incarnation