

The Son

(Week 3)

“And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary...”

The Almighty Maker of heaven and earth is not only exalted in awesome majesty, infinitely higher than anything He has made; He has humbled Himself to the point of actually becoming human, like you and me. This is called the Incarnation—taking on flesh—,when God the Son was miraculously conceived and naturally born a man. The Creator became a creature.

The way He accomplished this astounding feat gives us our first glimpse of what is called the Trinity: the doctrine that defines God as three Persons and, at the same time, one Being. The discerning reader—by which, of course, I am referring to you—will notice that such a doctrine does not explicitly appear in the Apostle’s Creed. This brings up an important point about creeds: they are not exhaustive. Because they cannot say everything, credal authors will often include summaries of doctrines that are under particular assault at the moment. The later Nicene Creed is much more thorough in its description of the Trinity for this very reason.

As astounding as the Incarnation is, it was not entirely unexpected. To call Jesus, “the Christ”, is to acknowledge this fact. Christ from the Greek “Christos” means the same thing as Messiah from the Hebrew “Mashiah”: Anointed One. He was picked out and promised beforehand. The Old Testament is filled with references, some clearer than others, of this Coming One.¹ Jesus birth was the culmination of millenia of divine promising and preparation.

This long-foretold Christ is “the one and only Son from the Father”.² There are no others. Though through Him we may be adopted as sons of God, like we learned last week, we do not have the status that He does, because He is God.³ He is the Father’s ultimate messenger and sacrifice, sent for us all.⁴

Because the Son, too, is God, He is our Lord. He deserves, both by virtue of who He is and what He has done, complete allegiance. Like the Father, He knows all and is almighty, though for a time He laid these aside. Jesus, perfect in character and ability, does not lead us from behind. He is the Pioneer, who is “familiar with our weakness” because He has endured suffering and temptation Himself.⁵ The Bible justly proclaims that “every knee will bow [at His name]--in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and ever tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”⁶

That passage associates Christ’s pre-eminent position of exaltation with His earlier humbling. Because He infinitely humbled Himself, He will be infinitely exalted.⁷ God is humble. Who, out of all the wise men of the earth, could have imagined that?!

The only fitting response to Jesus Christ is to offer ourselves to Him as His humble servants, disciples, and slaves. He knows what is best. We must follow Him in His humility.⁸ What better way to begin doing just that then to meditate on the Incarnation? Consider the Ultimate Example of Humility, who is also the One demanding our full obedience. Ask Him if there is anything in your life that displeases Him. Say, why not do that right now?

1 Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:11-16; Psalms 2; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5; Daniel 7:13+14; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9+10. This list could be a lot longer, but these should give you the idea.

2 John 1:14

3 John 1:18

4 John 1:29-34

5 Hebrew 4:15; 12:2

6 Philippians 2:10+11

7 Philippians 2:6-9

8 Philippians 2:5