

EFCA Doctrinal Statement 4 part 2

5/14/18

As we continue to consider the doctrinal statement of the EFCA, we are considering who Jesus is, so that we can better understand His work on our behalf. We are thinking about the statement that Jesus is God incarnate, fully God and fully man—one person in two natures.

I'm not sure that we will ever fully understand the incarnation, but the Bible is clear about it being true. Jesus took on flesh, without losing His deity. Mark Driscoll says that the incarnation is more of a miracle than the resurrection. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the good news for all mankind. If Jesus had not taken on flesh, there would be no way of having a relationship with God.

In [Philippians 2:1-11](#) we read that Jesus willingly took on flesh. He humbled Himself in order to serve us. He did not do so begrudgingly. He willingly and willfully took on flesh. God's great desire is that all men might be saved. ([1 Timothy 2:4-5](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)) That means that God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) want all mankind to be saved. R.C. Sproul says it this way,

"In God's plan of redemption, the Son Voluntarily takes on a subordinate role to the Father. It is the Father who sends the Son into the world. The Son obediently comes to earth to do the will of the Father. We must be careful to note, however, that there is no sense of begrudging obedience. As they are the same in glory, the Father and Son are also of one will. The Father wishes for redemption equally as much as the Son. The Son is eager to perform the work of salvation, just as the Father is eager for Him to do so. Jesus declared that His meat and His drink was to do the will of the Father." (John 4:34)

It was absolutely necessary for Jesus to take on flesh. Since mankind sinned in the flesh, a perfect human sacrifice was necessary to satisfy the just demands of a just God. ([Galatians 4:4-7](#); [Romans 5:12-21](#); [Hebrews 2:14-18](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)) God literally is the just and the justifier because of Jesus becoming the sinless perfect sacrifice for our sin. ([Romans 3:21-26](#))

While God's work has been accomplished through Jesus the Christ, it is up to us to decide if we will appropriate what He has already accomplished on our behalf. We have to respond in faith. We cannot add to or earn the salvation that Jesus willingly took on flesh to purchase. We must appropriate it by faith. In other words, we have to believe that it is true, and by faith live accordingly. That faith includes believing that Jesus came in the flesh. It also includes appropriating what Jesus did in our lives. ([1 John 4:2](#); [John 6:53](#))

I spoke with a lady Sunday who confessed that she had become in some ways "bored" with God's Word. She has been in the church all of her life and has read the Bible repeatedly. If we are honest, many of us probably feel that way at times. We have "heard" and "read" all that God has done and it sort of becomes old news. May God again overwhelm us with the amazing and mind-boggling truth about Jesus taking on flesh and what the ramifications of that are for us! ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)) I am praying like David said in [Psalm 40:6](#) that God would give us open ears to hear, and like Paul prayed in [Ephesians 1](#) that God would open the eyes of our hearts that we would comprehend what God has done for us by Jesus becoming flesh.

What amazing good news it is that Jesus willingly emptied himself and took on flesh in order to serve us and accomplish God's plan for salvation. I was reminded of the words of a song that we learned this last Christmas, *Arrival*. It tells this great story of God voluntarily taking on human flesh that we might be able to

know Him. It brought tears to my eyes when I first heard it in December. It brought tears to my eyes again this weekend as I considered that amazing gift of God in His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ.

VERSE 1

Who is God that He would take our frame
The artisan inside the paint
Or breathe the very air His breath sustains
The architect inside the plan

CHORUS

Oh come now hail His arrival
The God of creation
Royalty robed in the flesh He created
Jesus the maker has made Himself known
All hail the infinite infant God

VERSE 2

The One who had no start and knows no end
Became confined in time and tense
The Everlasting God
The Great I Am
In the mercy of a mother's hands

BRIDGE

The One who holds the stars
In the creases of His hands
Is the One who holds my heart
Like a mother once held him
The One who knows what lies
Where space has run its course
Embraced a baby's mind
And now I can know my God
The monarch of the stars
The King above all kings
The ruler of my heart
And the Saviour for my sins
The One who sees what lies
In each and every soul
Embraced our finite eyes
And now we can see our God

VERSE 3

The Holy Word of God defined by name
The author climbed inside the page

BRIDGE 2

God embraced our frame
When He graced the world He made
All hail the divine in a manger

