

“Therefore:” The Logical Lifestyle of a Hopeful Minority

“We Believe in the Incarnation”

Ephesians, Selected Verses

The Lord’s Day Morning, Christmas Day

December 25, 2016

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day He rose again.

The Apostles’ Creed, c. 180

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith...Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man...

–The Athanasian Creed, c. 490

God’s natural Son fashioned for himself a body from our body, flesh from our flesh, bones from our bones, that he might be one with us...it was also imperative that he who was to become our Redeemer be true God and true man.

–John Calvin, 1536

Many great things...were accomplished between the fall of man and the incarnation of Christ, but God becoming man was greater than all. Then the greatest person was born that ever was or ever will be.

–Jonathan Edwards, 1739

Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the incarnation. This is the real stumbling-block in Christianity. It is here that Jews, Muslims, Unitarians, and Jehovah’s Witnesses, and many of those who feel the difficulties...about the virgin birth, the miracles, the atonement and the resurrection, have come to grief...But once the incarnation is grasped as a reality, these other difficulties dissolve.

–J.I. Packer, 1973

1. Jesus is fully _____, with a body that bled, died, and was raised to life (1:7; 2:13–16;1:20).
2. Jesus is fully _____, who has eternally existed as the uncreated Son of God (1:2–4,22; 4:8,13; 6:1–7).
3. The world _____ Jesus’ humanity and his _____ of love, peace, and hope (3:19; 2:15,17; 4:4).
4. The world _____ Jesus’ deity and his making peace by absorbing the wrath of God on the cross in the place of sinners who believe in him (2:3,8–9,14–16).
5. The _____ of Christmas is the _____ (good works we do for God): Give to others, be nice, and trust in your good works to earn God’s favor. Jesus is _____.
6. The _____ of Christmas is the _____ (good news of what God has done for us): Receive the free gift of salvation and trust in Christ alone. Jesus is _____.