

Jesus had a PHYSICAL origin

The disciples believed Jesus to have an earthly beginning, which he did—physically. He was born in the usual way to Mary, who was impregnated in an unusual way—by the Holy Spirit, and that makes *all* the difference (Matt. 1:20)! *Don't be surprised when God does something surprising!* Many in the crowd knew Joseph and Mary, knew of Jesus' upbringing, knew his brothers and sisters (who were conceived in the *usual* way) and had their children play with him when he was a child. Jesus was human in every physical way, but divine in every other, and they refused to acknowledge it. *God often uses the earthly to display the heavenly!*

Salvation has a HEAVENLY origin

Salvation is God's business, and He won't fail. Because of this, Jesus wasn't scared to teach hard doctrine or theology. In fact, the litmus test of a true disciple is if they will be submissive to God's word and trust Jesus' character in the face of challenging claims. *There is no faith without having to have faith!* Sometimes Jesus fed his teaching to people from a baby bottle and sometimes a fire hose, but the mark of genuine faith is that they will follow even when they don't completely understand. Jesus has been sent from heaven to save those on earth so those on earth can go to heaven (John 3:16; 14:3). *Just because it's beyond you doesn't mean it's not true!*

Fellowship has a SPIRITUAL element

Jesus tells them to eat (Gr. *phago*, 'to chew/eat/consume') his flesh and drink his blood for eternal life. This was incomprehensible for a Jewish rabbi to teach eating human flesh or drinking blood like the pagan cultures (Lev. 17:10-14). However, Jesus already told them they only needed to *believe* in him to have eternal life (John 6:29, 40). Because of their hard hearts, he uses a shocking metaphor to force a choice of allegiance—the conquering Messiah of their own making or a dying Messiah who would save the world. *Sometimes hard hearts need to be broken with a hammer!* Here, Jesus alludes to the spiritual mystery of the Christian experience by stating believers must abide 'in him' and he 'in them.' At the last supper, he would give them bread and wine instead of his actual body. *Communion is union with God and unity with each other* (1 Cor. 11:23, 24)!