

Doctrines Every Christian Should Know

The Preincarnate/Incarnation of Christ

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- The Preincarnation of Christ means that He **existed** before His birth.
- If Christ did not exist before His birth then the eternal **Trinity** of God could not have existed and therefore would also be a denial of the deity of Jesus Christ.
- If Christ did not exist eternally before His birth it would also make Him a **Liar**, and this would bring forth of questions as to the reliability of His words/teachings. (Jn 3:13)
- The Bible's teachings on **creation** also support a *preincarnate* Christ. (Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2)
- Christ Jesus also claimed equality of nature and glory with God. (Jn 10:29-30; 17:5; Phil 2:5-6)
- Even John the Baptist claimed that Christ Jesus existed **eternally** before His earthly birth. (Jn 1:15)
- The word *Incarnation* means **in** the **flesh**. (Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 4:2; 2 Jn 1:7)
- Even though Christ Jesus took the form of mankind it doesn't mean that there was **sin** in His life! (Rom 8:3)
- The incarnation, virgin birth, sinlessness and crucifixion of Jesus Christ are forever **tied** together and were **predicted** in the Old Testament. (Isa 7:14; Gen 3:15)
- The Council at **Chalcedon** (A.D. 451) has long been considered authoritative by orthodox Christianity.

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards His Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards His manhood; like us in all respects apart from sin; as regards His Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards His manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-Begotten, recognized in two natures,

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without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one Person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two Persons, but one and the same Son and only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of Him, and our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has been handed down to us.¹

The Person & Role of Christ

- The role of Christ has typically followed a threefold division of **Prophet**, **Priest** and **King**.
- Moses predicted that God would raise up another **prophet**. (Deut 18:15; Acts 3:22-26; Jn 8:25-26)
- As a prophet Christ came to **proclaim** God's message. It was the duty of a prophet to **speak** to men from God. (Matt 4:17; 7:28-29)
- As a priest Christ Jesus was to speak to **God** for mankind.
- One of the works of the priest was to bring **sacrifices** before God on the behalf of the Israelites for their sin, but these sacrifices needed repeating because they were not eternally satisfactory. But in respect to Christ as our Great High Priest there is no need to repeat His sacrifice for His sacrifice met the highest standard of God. (Heb 10:1-10; 1:3)
- As Priest, Christ also seeks to **aid** and **sustain** those who belong to Him. (Acts 7:54-56; Rev 2:1)
- As King, Christ holds **power** in a variety areas: (Acts 17:5-7; Rev 19:15-16)
- Although Christ is King today, He is not yet **ruling** as King, this is still a **future** event. (Rev 20:11;

Next readings for the self-emptying of Christ, ministries, justification, and sanctification: Isa 53; Lk 1:35; Jn 8:46; 14:16-18; 15:10; Acts 1:9-11; 2:32-35; 1 Cor 15; 2 Cor 5:20-21; Eph 1:20-23; 5:25-27; Phil 2:1-11)

¹ Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, e-edition