

PM Service Handout - 11/12/23

Question 21: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Answer: Christ, the son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body (Heb 2:14), and a reasonable soul (Mat 26:38; Heb 4:15), being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and born of her (Luke 1:31, 35), yet without sin (Heb 7:26).

Thomas Vincent - The Shorter Catechism Explained from Scripture

Q. 1. Was it a voluntary act in Christ, the Son of God, to become man?

A. Yes; because he took on him the human nature, that he might be thereby fitted to be our Redeemer. "In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin, thou hast no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come." – Heb. 10:6-7.

Q. 2. Was Christ, the Son of God, a real man, like unto other men?

A. Christ, the Son of God, was a real man, taking to himself the two essential parts of man.

1. He had a real body of flesh, and blood, and bones; not a phantastical body, which is a body only in appearance. "Behold my hands and my feet: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." --Luke 24:39.

2. He had a real rational soul, and his divine nature did not supply the place of the soul. "Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin." – Isaiah 53:10. "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." – Matthew 26:38.

Q. 3. Was the birth of Christ like unto the birth of other men?

A. No; for Christ was born of a virgin, namely, the Virgin Mary. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son." – Isaiah 7:14. "And Joseph took unto him Mary his wife; and knew her not till she had brought forth her first born son; and he called his name Jesus." – Matthew 1:24-25

Q. 4. How could Christ be born of a virgin?

A. It was a miraculous conception, by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary. "And Mary said to the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." --Luke 1:34-35.

Q. 5. Was Christ born in sin like other men?

A. No; for however Christ took upon him the nature of man, and many human infirmities, yet he was perfectly free from sinful infirmities. "We have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. --Hebrews 4:15.