

## **Born of a Woman**

## **Belgic Confession, Article 18**

1. **THE STORY OF THE INCARNATION:** The eternal Son of God took to himself a true human nature. Article 19 will develop this doctrine in more detail, but there are three main parts already in Article 18:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God
  - b. A \_\_\_\_\_ human nature
  - c. At the \_\_\_\_\_ set by him
  
2. **THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST:** Article 18 goes to great lengths to defend and \_\_\_\_\_ the full humanity of Christ.
  - a. The Belgic Confession’s references: he “shared the very flesh and blood of children” (Hebrews 2:14); that he is “fruit of the loins of David” according to the flesh (Acts 2:30); “born of the seed of David” according to the flesh (Romans 1:3); “fruit of the womb of the virgin Mary” (Luke 1:42); “born of a woman” (Galatians 4:4); “the seed of David” (2 Timothy 2:8); “a shoot from the root of Jesse” (Romans 15:12); “the offspring of Judah,” having descended from the Jews according to the flesh (Hebrews 7:14); “from the seed of Abraham” -- for he “assumed Abraham’s seed” and was “made like his brothers except for sin” (Hebrews 2:17; 4:15). In this way he is truly our Immanuel -- that is: “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).
  - b. The humanity of Christ is important for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons: the atonement, sympathy with our weakness, affirmation of creation, and an example of the humility we are called to have in fellowship with each other.
 

Hebrews 2:14 “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (also v. 17)

Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

1 Cor. 15:20 “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

Philippians 2:5 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus....”
  
3. **THE FULFILLMENT OF PROMISE:** Another reason – perhaps the most important reason – to make much of Christ’s full humanity is the way in which it highlights God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to his promises.
  - a. Son of David: Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ who rules over all things.
  - b. Son of Abraham: Jesus empowers the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church by his Spirit.
  - c. Born of a woman: Jesus has defeated the \_\_\_\_\_ and will undo the curse when he returns.
  - d. “God with us” is ultimately a promise of the \_\_\_\_\_: “the dwelling place of God is with man” (Revelation 21:3).