

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XVIII

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

Leader: We confess, therefore, that God has fulfilled the promise which He made to the fathers by the mouth of His holy prophets,¹ when He sent into the world, at the time appointed by Him, His own only-begotten and eternal Son, who *took upon Him the form of a servant and became like unto man,*² really assuming the true human nature with all its infirmities, sin excepted;³ being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit without the means of man;⁴ and did not only assume human nature as to the body, but also a true human soul, that He might be a real man.⁵ For since the soul was lost as well as the body, it was necessary that He should take both upon Him, to save both.

People: **Therefore we confess (in opposition to the heresy of the Anabaptists, who deny that Christ assumed human flesh of His mother) that Christ *partook of the flesh and blood of the children;*⁶ that He is *a fruit of the loins of David after the flesh; born of the seed of David according to the flesh; a fruit of the womb of Mary; born of a woman; a branch of David; a shoot of the root of Jesse; sprung from the tribe of Judah;*⁷ descended from the Jews according to the flesh; of the seed of Abraham, since *he took on him the seed of Abraham, and was made like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted;*⁸ so that in truth He is our IMMANUEL, that is to say, *God with us.*⁹**

¹ Luke 1:55; Acts 13:23

² Phil. 2:7

³ Heb. 2:14-15; 4:15

⁴ Luke 1:31-42; Gal. 4:4

⁵ Matt. 26:38; John 12:27

⁶ Heb. 2:14

⁷ Matt. 1:1-17; Acts 2:30; Luke 1:42; Gal. 4:4; Jer. 33:15; Isa 11:1; Heb. 7:14

⁸ Heb 2:15-17

⁹ Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23