

We **should** celebrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise, the culmination of hope found in the birth of the Messiah.

**Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:22-23 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, "God with us."

**John 1:14 (NKJV)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The doctrine of Incarnation . . . the mystery of fully God and fully man

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead;

Jesus **reveals God** invisible and **represents man** who is visible.

**John 20:31 (NKJV)** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**John 1:14 (NKJV)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:1-4 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 1:14 (NKJV)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:18 (NKJV)** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**John 1:18 (NLT)** No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is Himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

To shun or ignore Christ is to miss the magnitude of the incarnation.

The incarnation of Christ did not involve the subtraction of Deity, but the addition of humanity.

Yet, because He came in the flesh Jesus fully relates to you, to your every need, your every emotion.

**Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

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**Matthew 15:12-19 (MSG)** <sup>12</sup> Later his disciples came and told him, "Did you know how upset the Pharisees were when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus shrugged it off. "Every tree that wasn't planted by my Father in heaven will be pulled up by its roots. <sup>14</sup> Forget them. They are blind men leading blind men. When a blind man leads a blind man, they both end up in the ditch." <sup>15</sup> Peter said, "I don't get it. Put it in plain language." <sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "You too? Are you being willfully stupid? <sup>17</sup> Don't you know that anything that is swallowed works its way through the intestines and is finally defecated? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart. <sup>19</sup> It's from the heart that we vomit up evil arguments, . . .

Jesus understood His emotions, but never made an emotional decision

Jesus came to a suffering humanity . . . not just in theory, **but in the flesh.**