When Christ Comes 2 Sermon for 12-10-17

Jesus came to earth as a baby wrapped in flesh—fully God and fully human—to save us from sin.

The Old Testament prophets told us what to expect when Christ came. And one of the greatest things they told us would happen is that when Christ came, He would be coming as a man.

The prophets were basically saying, “When Christ comes, He will be coming as a human with a real live, physical body that will be carried in the womb of a young lady for nine months and born just as all of us are born on this planet. The Messiah won’t be a spirit, an angel, a mutant demi-god, or an alien from outer space.”

# Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

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

**Isaiah 9:6**

**6**For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Today we celebrate that Jesus—the God who created and sustains the universe, had no beginning and will have no end, has all power to do anything He pleases, is everywhere at the same time all of the time, and knows everything—came near to us; He is Immanuel.

**Jesus did not only come near to us geographically, He came near to us experientially.**

**When Christ came, He came as fully God and fully man.**

He came as fully God with

* No sin nature
* All power to perform signs and wonders
* An uninterrupted connection with Father God
* A complete awareness of everything going on in the spiritual realm

Everything that Jesus could have done as God in heaven, He could have done while on this earth if He had chosen to do so.

He came as fully man with

* A body
* A soul
* A spirit

**Any limitation of His human frame was entirely accepted, sustained, and protected by Jesus Himself from infancy to the day He died.**

* **Philippians 2:3-11** (NLT)

**3**Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. **4**Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

**5**You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Being in the form of God

**6**Though he was God,
    he did not think of equality with God
    as something to cling to.
**7**Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
    he took the humble position of a slave
    and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,

He emptied Himself

Being in the form of a slave

**Imagine a King emptying Himself of all demand to be worshiped, venerated, or preferred intentionally becoming a peasant slave who exists to serve.**

Jesus becoming a human in the womb of Mary is the greatest act of humility we can ever know, and this act of meekness was necessary if God ever wanted a chance for you to be with Him forever…

# 1 John 1:1-4 (NKJV)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— **2**the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **3**that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4**And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

* The Apostle John was adamant in his writings that Jesus came to us in a physical body.
	+ John’s favorite name for Jesus was the Word.
	+ Many people are now arguing—and the belief is growing that a historical, physical Jesus did not exist.
		- We have firm evidence not only from the Scriptures accuracy regarding historical events, we also have firm evidence from non-Christian historical writers that Jesus indeed existed.
			* https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/did-jesus-exist/
	+ It is incredibly important to establish whether you believe that Jesus was physically here 2000 years ago.
		- If Jesus was not here on this earth in a physical human body…
			* We could not be saved from an eternity in hell.
			* He would not be able to understand where we are coming from.
			* We would have no example of how to live a life cooperating with God as a human being.
* **We declare a knowable Savior to you—that eternal life that is accessible to you by faith!**

**1 John 5:6-13** (NKJV)

**6**This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

**7**For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. **8**And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. **9**If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

**10**He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. **11**And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12**He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13**These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

* **Verse 6: Coming by water and blood**
	+ “This is He who came by water and blood” is a reference to Jesus’ physical body as well as His work to save us.
		1. Jesus’ physical body
			- When the soldier pierced Jesus’ side while He hung on the cross, blood and water flowed out of the same wound confirming that Jesus was dead and that He was mortal.
			- **This is incredibly important!**
				* **If Jesus wasn’t fully human, He couldn’t have taken our punishment for us because He couldn’t have died.**
				* Death is the punishment for sin, and so to take that punishment, Jesus had to lower Himself to a form that was able to die. He had to be in a form that was able to bleed. He had to be in a form that was able to suffer as an object of God’s wrath.
		2. Jesus’ work
			- The water is a powerful statement of Jesus’ work to wash us clean of any filth that would prevent us from being in relationship with God.
			- The blood appeased God’s just wrath and took the punishment for our sins.
		3. Notice how they work together…
			- **Because the blood eternally satisfies the wrath of God that we deserve, the water—or the Holy Spirit—washes and purifies our very nature, changing us to be more like God every day.**
* **Verses 7-8: The Witnesses**
	+ There is a law that God has revealed in the Bible called the Law of Three Witnesses; in 2 Corinthians 13:1 we see that “every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”
	+ What is the matter to be established? Verse 11
	+ Who are the witnesses that testify?
		1. “three that bear witness *in heaven*”
			- The Trinity
		2. “three that bear witness *on earth*”
			- The Spirit’s influence in our lives internally through sanctifying change and externally through supernatural gifts.
			- The sacrament of baptism
			- The sacrament of Communion or the Eucharist
	+ **All persons of the Trinity, the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit, our baptism in water, and our communion together remembering Jesus’ death testify that God has given us eternal life; and that life is in His Son Jesus Christ.**
		1. You can take my word for it that Jesus is the Son of God, but God’s testimony and His commandments to us as a church are a much more powerful testimony that who Jesus said He was is true and reliable.
* **Verses 10-13: What’s your story?**
	+ Do you believe in the Son of God? IF you do, you have the witness in yourself; meaning, you become another witness telling the world the same story of Jesus that the Trinity and the Church is telling.
	+ Is that your story? Being a Christian means that you have a story.

When Jesus comes, He will come again as fully God and fully man—a man whose body is resurrected and glorified. You can have a body like that too if you believe and continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.