

- Q22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?  
A22. **Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.**

**Scripture References:** John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14-16, 4:15, 7:26, 10:15; Matthew 26:38; Luke 1:27, 31-42; Galatians 4:4; Luke 2:5

- DQ1: What are two natures of Christ?
- DQ2: How perfect are Christ's two natures?
- DQ3: Could Christ be the Redeemer of sinners if one of Christ's two natures is not perfect?
- DQ4: How significant is the problem if one of Christ's natures were slightly lacking in perfection?
- DQ5: As whose son was Christ born?
- DQ6: What is the term used to describe God coming in the flesh?
- DQ7: What is the meaning of Christ having "a true body, and a reasonable soul"?
- DQ8: By whose power was Christ born in the flesh?
- DQ9: Through whose womb was Christ born?
- DQ10: How important is the fact that Christ was born of a virgin?
- DQ11: Was the virgin Mary with or without sin?
- DQ12: How are the facts that Christ was born of the virgin and was without sin related?
- DQ13: How important is the fact that Christ was and is without sin?
- DQ14: How amazing is the fact that God came in the flesh?

**Notes:**

Sinners needed a very special Redeemer who was able to fully satisfy the requirements of God's wrath, righteousness and holiness. Where could one possibly find such a Redeemer? No human being, affected by total depravity, could serve as Redeemer and satisfy God's requirements. Does that mean all human beings had to enter eternal death without any hope of salvation? Thankfully, this is not the case.

God is all wise. His wisdom is His solution to an impossible dilemma of every man. By wisdom, God has ordained and devised the best methods of dealing with the dilemma for the best result.

The coming of the Redeemer in the flesh is the work of God's wisdom. And, of course, the coming of the Redeemer in the flesh was the best method to accomplish God's purposes.

God's fully satisfied His own requirements of justice and love by the coming of Christ in the flesh as the Redeemer. For this reason, the Redeemer had to come with deity and humanity. Both natures are so perfect and perfectly harmonious in Christ. Christ's deity lacked nothing from the deity of the Father. Christ came in the flesh such that He had fully all of the ordinary attributes of human beings including the ordinary senses of taste, smell and touch. Yet, His power was without limit. He ordered nature into obedience, dead to life, sick to health. He had complete power over evil spirits. He is Creator. Indeed, He is God.

Christ, while being fully God, is also fully man. Christ suffered from hunger, thirst and fatigue. He enjoyed eating good food. He laughed and cried. Blood ran through his veins. He had to breathe just like any other human being. Christ, like all human beings, experienced suffering and hardship and was tempted by the devil. Yet, Christ was never shaken nor committed any sin. Though Christ is God, Christ endured the cross not by the power of His deity but humbly and painfully as man.

It would not have been possible for sinner to be redeemed by either deity or humanity of Christ. History tells us of unceasing attacks on Christ's perfect dual nature. People generally focused attacking either Christ's deity or humanity. Yet, such attacks were no more than an effort to satisfy their need to understand. Incarnate Christ is beyond human thought and comprehension for it is only possible by God's wisdom, which is beyond that of man.

Christ is the Son of God. The "son-ship" of Christ is not and does not comport to the relationship between an earthly father and an earthly son. Every earthly son is born of an earthly father. There is no other way. The son is therefore under the father. However, Christ is not born of God the Father in the same way an earthly son is born to an earthly father. First, Christ is the "Son" of God because the Son and the Father are one. "Son" is a clear reference to the oneness and unity with the Father. It is the closest possible relationship that can be expressed in a Biblical language. Second, "Son" establishes a legal relationship of heir-ship. Only the son could inherit the father's estate. Third, "Son" expresses the most intimate love relationship known to man. Remember, God created Adam, a man. God loved Adam as a son.

Jesus was born to a virgin mother but is clearly above His mother. Mary specifically confessed and expressed this in Luke 1:46-55. The passage clearly describes how Mary felt about Jesus. Sadly and incorrectly, however the Roman Catholic Church has long deified the virgin Mary and calls her "the Mother of God" and worships her. Mary is held as someone more than an ordinary human being. Mary was but an instrument of the Holy Spirit to bring God in the flesh. We call this Incarnation. This one word contains the greatest truth and mystery the world has ever known.

Without Incarnation or, if Christ was not conceived by the power of Holy Spirit, no redemption would be possible. All of our faith and its practice would be futile. Our faith and redemption is worthwhile only as long as the Incarnate Christ is fully God and fully man.

We do not mean to discount the importance of the virgin birth, however. It is essential. Christ was not born out of ordinary human regeneration in sin. If Christ was born by the ordinary means, He too would have been born a sinner. A sinner cannot be the Redeemer.

We need to deal with some potential misunderstanding regarding the virgin Mary. The Catholic Church considers Mary is sinless and that is how Jesus was born free of sin. This is completely erroneous. The Catholic Church also teaches that Mary never ever had any sexual relationship with Joseph to support the contention that Mary is without sin. Just consider the following two passages and we will see how erroneous their teaching is. Matthew 1:25 says "But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son." This statement clearly says that Joseph and Mary did have sexual relationship after the birth of Jesus. If for some odd reason, they didn't, Mary would be committing a sin by violating what was clearly required of her. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 specifies what is required of the husband and wife.

The fact that Jesus was born without sin speaks clearly to the power of the Holy Spirit, making it possible for Christ to be born miraculously and mysteriously without sin. People have made all kinds of attempts to explain how Christ was born without sin. But the best answer that can be given is simply that it was made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Redeemer must have the perfect dual nature of deity and humanity for the redemption work required both natures. God's requirement of justice is infinite. Therefore, the Redeemer must also be able to satisfy the infinite requirement of justice. One God Himself could satisfy such a requirement. God's justice required the shedding of blood. No animal's blood, no matter how much blood is spilled, could bring atonement and redemption. Only Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God, could become the perfect sacrifice that will satisfy God. Jesus had to come as a perfect man to become the perfect sacrifice. This is God's wisdom.