

# “The Arrival of God in Flesh”

*Galatians 4:4,5*

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Dec. 7, 2014*

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Throughout church history, people have wrestled with Christology—the person, role & nature of Jesus Christ.

## **ebionism**

- Ebionism is a false teaching that Jesus was 100% human, but not divine.

## **docetism**

- Docetism is the false teaching that Jesus was 100% God, but not human.

## **apollinarianism**

- Apollinarianism is a false teaching that Jesus was 100% God, and only partially human (that Jesus had a human body and soul, and only a divine spirit).

## **eutychnianism**

- Eutychnianism is a false teaching that Jesus was not fully human or fully divine, but a combination of the two.

## **nestorianism**

- Nestorianism is a false teaching that Jesus had two natures, but they were entirely separate.

**All of these heresies fly in the face of Scripture that teaches the hypostatic union; that Jesus is 100% God and 100% man!**

John 1:1	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:14	And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 8:58,59	<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
John 10:30	I and the Father are one.
John 20:28	Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Heb. 1:8

But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

So why is it so important that we believe in the incarnation of Christ—“the arrival of God in flesh”?

1 John 4:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come **in the flesh** is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Jesus Christ is “the God-man” – fully God, fully man, and not more one than the other.

*“The substance of a soul, then, being intermediate between God and the flesh—it being impossible for the nature of God to intermingle with a body without an instrument—the God-man is born.”*

*Origen, De Principiis, Book II, Chapter VI, On the Incarnation of the Christ*

Jesus had human needs during his earthly life.

- Jesus was tired and needed sleep (Lk. 8:23).
- Jesus was hungry and needed food (Matt. 4:2; 21:18).
- Jesus needed physical protection at times (Matt. 2:13-15; John 10:39).

Jesus’ humanity evidenced itself in a variety of other ways.

- Jesus sweat (Lk. 22:43-44).
- Jesus bled (John 19:34).
- Jesus experienced human emotions like we do—joy (John 15.11), sadness (Matt. 26:37), anger (Mk. 3:5).
- Jesus calls Himself a man (John 8:40).
- Jesus was still referred to as a man in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church (Acts 2:22).

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But...the primary purpose of the incarnation of Christ was to be the Savior of the world!

Christ had to be born under the law and in the flesh in order to fulfill the law on our behalf.

Gal. 4:4,5

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Christ had to put on flesh in order to die in our place, and shed His blood for our sins!

Heb. 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Heb. 10:5-7

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.' "