

The Baptist Faith and Message  
Article 2b – God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

We've probably seen 1,000 representations of who Jesus Christ is. We have seen him portrayed in stained glass windows, in plays, in movies, in paintings, but who is the real Jesus. Our goal tonight is to see the real Jesus. Most of the images of Christ, blonde haired blue eyed guy. The survivors of the ancient Jews today, those who are most ethnically like the Jews of the first century are shorter in stature than the average American, they are broad shoulders, coarse hair, dark complexion.

**I. His DEITY Is Affirmed**

**Christ is the eternal Son of God.**

We know, first of all that he is in fact Divine because we affirm that Jesus Christ is eternal. To say someone is eternal is to say that have had no beginning and will have no end. Only God is eternal, and therefore when Jesus is declared by the word to possess that attribute, the Bible is declaring that Jesus is in fact God. This is affirmed in John 1:1; John 17:5

- A. Jesus CLAIMED to be God John 10:30-33; John 8:58-59
- B. His disciples BELIEVED Him to be God John 20:28; Acts 5:31
- C. The Scriptures DECLARE He is God Col 1:16-17; Isaiah 44:24
- D. Jesus PROVED He is God

Now, it is one thing to claim to be God or to fool someone into believing it is true, and something else entirely to prove it to be so. Christ offered as proof of His claim to deity many miracles and even rose from the dead. Just a few of Jesus' miracles include turning water to wine (John 2:7), walking on water (Matthew 14:25), multiplying physical objects (John 6:11), healing the blind (John 9:7), the lame (Mark 2:3), and the sick (Matthew 9:35; Mark 1:40–42), and even raising people from the dead (John 11:43–44; Luke 7:11–15; Mark 5:35).

**II. His INCARNATION Is Declared**

**In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

A. Why was it NECESSARY for Jesus to be incarnated?

- 1. To CONFIRM God's Promises (Romans 15:8; Gen 3:15; Isaiah 9:6)
- 2. To REVEAL The Father

In the OT God is revealed as Creator and governor. The OT reveals the unity, holiness, and might of God. Christ completed the revelation by adding the idea of God as Father. John 1:18 NIV, John 14:9. The relationship of the child of God to the heavenly Father is a precious NT concept.

- 3. To become a Faithful High Priest (Hebrews 5, Hebrews 10:11-14)

#### 4. To Put Away SIN (1 John 3:5; Isaiah 53:6)

#### B. What was the NATURE of His incarnation?

##### 1. He EMPTIED Himself (Phil 2:7)

What does this mean, he emptied himself. Some have claimed that in the incarnation Jesus emptied himself of his relative attributes – omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence – while retaining his immanent attributes – his holiness, love, and truth. It is taught that he had deep knowledge, but not complete; was powerful, but not all-powerful.

This, in my estimation is not the case. Christ repeatedly asserted his divine knowledge. Often in the gospels you see Christ knowing things about people and situations which would only had been possible if he still maintained a level of divine omniscience. As for his power, we not only read that he rebuked the wind, miraculously fed the hungry, healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, but that he frequently called on the people to believe in based on those supernatural works.

Several things did happen in his humiliation, emptying of himself. In some manner his divine glory was veiled, but not surrendered. He willingly left the riches of heaven to take on human poverty (2 Cor 8:9). He took on unglorified human flesh which was subject to weakness, pain, temptation and limitation. He voluntarily chose not to use his prerogatives of deity, such as the three omni's to make his way easier. The act of kenosis may be properly understood to mean that Christ surrendered no attribute of Deity, but that He did voluntarily restrict their independent use in keeping with His purpose of living among men and their limitations.

##### 2. He was made in human LIKENESS (Phil 2:7, John 1:14)

### **III. His PERFECTION Is Maintained In His HUMANITY**

**Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin.**

We see in this phrase that we affirm that in Jesus' incarnation he did become completely human. How do we know that Jesus was completely human?

#### A. PROOFS of Jesus' humanity

1. He had a human BIRTH (Galatians 4:4)
2. He had human DEVELOPMENT (Luke 2:40)
3. He had human LIMITATIONS

He was weary (John 4:6), hungry (Matt 4:2; 21:18), thirsty (John 19:28), he slept (Matt 8:24)

Christians have in heaven a high priest with an unequalled capacity for sympathizing with them in all the dangers and sorrows and trials which come their way in life, because He Himself, by virtue of His likeness to them, was exposed to all these experiences. Again, it must be born in mind that to speak of the infirmities of Christ's nature does not imply sinful infirmities.

#### B. Jesus was the one SINLESS human

Hebrews 4:15

He was absolutely Holy. Acts 3:14

#### **IV. His PURPOSE Is Explained**

**He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.**

Christ's death on the cross is His primary work, his primary purpose in coming. We know this is true for several reasons.

##### **A. It is foretold in the Old Testament**

The death of Christ is the subject of many types and prophecies in the OT. We can trace a scarlet thread through the whole Bible. As you look at the sacrifices of Abel, the ram on Mount Moriah, the Passover lamb, the Levitical sacrifices, the scape-goat. These all point to the one great offering of Jesus Christ.

Beyond the sacrifices that serve as types of Christ's atoning work on the cross, there are hundreds of specific prophecies that point to the cross.

##### **B. It is PROMINENT in the New Testament**

The last week of our Lord's earthly life occupies about one-fifth of the narratives in the four Gospels. Similarly, the epistles are filled with references to this historic event.

##### **C. It is ESSENTIAL to our salvation**

The son of Man must be lifted up if man is to be saved (John 3:14) The grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die if it is to bring forth fruit. God cannot pardon sin merely on the ground of the sinners repentance. Without the shedding of blood there can be no remission or forgiveness of sin.

##### **D. It is of supreme INTEREST in heaven**

Moses and Elijah appeared on the mount of Transfiguration. What did were they talking about with Christ? (Luke 9:31). In heaven Rev 5:8-10 tells us that the angels around the throne are singing a song of praise, what are the words to that song?

**Substitutionary** – Christ took our place. It was a vicarious. Romans, 5:8, 1 Cor 15:3

**Provision** – We reject universalism. The atonement is available to all but only effective to those who accept Christ. It is sufficient for all mankind, but only efficient for the elect.

#### **V. His VICTORY Is Proclaimed**

**He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion.**

#### **VI. His GLORY Is Revealed**

**He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.**

#### **VII. His RETURN Is Assured**

**He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.**

More on this on article 10. Suffice it to say that there is a broad range of understanding and belief regarding the Day of the Lord among Baptists. There are ammil, premil, pre trib, mid trib, post trib, pre-wrath rapture, dispensationalist. There is no textbook answer to say, "Baptists believe abc about eschatology, though there are some basics we all agree on.

We believe Christ will return bodily. He will return to judge the world and to consummate his redemptive mission. When that happens with regard to chronological order of events is not cut and dry among Baptists, and that's ok.

**VIII. His PRESENCE Is Experienced**

He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.