

God with Us

As it is the case today, the early Christian church was troubled by various heresies about the person of Christ. The Docetists denied His humanity. They said that Jesus merely appeared as human. On the other hand, Arius spread the falsehood that Jesus is not God but only a created being.

What if Jesus is not human? If so, He could never be our human representative before the Father. A phantom could not have died on the cross for our sins nor rise from the grave, and our confidence and hope for salvation would be dashed.

And what if Jesus is not truly God? Then, He could not reveal the Father in truth. Nor could we trust in Him for salvation, since God explicitly declares: "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22).

The catholic faith expressed in the Nicene creed is solidly founded on the Holy Scriptures. The Son is "of one substance with the Father" and "for our salvation He came down from the heavens, and was made flesh of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man." Jesus is Divine and human.

The Bible calls Him both "God" (John 20:28) and "man" (John 19:5). He was conceived and born in time (Luke 1, 2) and yet the Son was with the Father from eternity (John 17:5). As man, Jesus shared the limitations of human nature, He was hungry, thirsty and tired (John 4); as God, He satisfies our thirst and hunger forever (John 4:14, 6:35), and upholds the universe by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). As man, he grew in wisdom (Luke 2:52), as God, He knows all things (John 21:17), even the secrets of our hearts (Revelation 2:23). As man, He departed from this world and is now in heaven (Luke 24:51); as God, He is everywhere present (Matthew 28:20). As man, he could lay down His life for us; as God He had the power to take it again (John 10:18).

We are confident that Christ is sympathetic with us because He experienced the same trials as we do (Hebrews 4:15); and yet, we recognize that He is not merely human. Jesus, the son of Mary, is also God. We gladly confess Him as our Lord and Saviour (2 Peter 3:18), and worship at His feet (Revelation 5:13).

Truly "in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" and therefore we are "complete in Him" (Colossians 2:9, 10). He is our perfect mediator, bridging the infinite chasm between heaven and earth, reconciling God and man in Himself.