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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q61. What makes Christ’s life different from every other person?**

He was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, and He obeyed God’s law perfectly: He never sinned.

* **Christ Was Conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Luke 1:26-38**

Hypostatic Union: Jesus Christ’s eternal, fully divine nature being united to His fully human nature at His incarnation. These two natures are not mixed, confused, or changed but are united without loss of separate identity, and they are inseparable.

The Holy Spirit did not conceive a new person; rather, He conceived a human nature (including human flesh) that was taken on by the pre-existing person of Jesus.

It is only through the virgin birth (not the joining of a man and woman) that the divine (God the Son) is united to the human in one person.

What we see at the incarnation is not a new person being conceived and therefore falling under the headship of Adam, but rather a human nature that was conceived and taken up by the pre-existing person of Jesus and therefore not under the headship of Adam the way that we are.

**Romans 5:12-14** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Because of the virgin birth, Jesus is proven not to be under Adam’s federal headship and therefore not imputed with his guilty, fallen nature.

**John Owen**: “Scripture teaches us that through the overshadowing of the Spirit, that which was born was holy [Lk. 1:35], the Son of God. At the very moment of conception and assumption, the Holy Spirit sanctified the human nature of Jesus equipping him as Son of God to be the Savior of men. Consequently Jesus was not only separate from sinners, he was positively endowed with all appropriate grace, and was holy and harmless, as well as undefiled [Heb. 7:26].”

**Hebrews 7:22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

**Hebrews 7:26** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

The virgin birth is a fulfillment of the promise in Genesis 3:15.

**Genesis 3:14-15** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

God declares that an offspring of the woman would be the victor over the serpent and the serpent’s work. Jesus had to come from the woman, and Jesus had to be conceived by God in order not to be born under the representation of Adam as a new person.

Jesus’s human nature truly did get conceived in a miraculous way; however, it was miraculously done with a real human biological egg of Mary.

If God declares that something will happen, He also ensures that it comes to pass. God’s saying is His doing.

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:21-23** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**James M. Boyce**:“The virgin birth is important because of its unique and miraculous nature, which therefore points to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. It is significant that the life of the Lord Jesus is bracketed by two great miracles. At the beginning is the virgin birth; He came into being without benefit of a human father, and so was the Son of God and son of man in a unique way. At the end is the resurrection: He conquers and transcends the greatest of all enemies, death.”

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

Jesus’s life was different, yet so real. He was worthy to be made the sufficient sacrifice that brings us—the elect of God—who are sinful and unworthy into the family of God!

* **Christ Obeyed God’s Law Perfectly**

Jesus was sinless: He obeyed God’s law perfectly; He never sinned.

**Philippians 2:8-11** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Luke 4:1-13**

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

**John 15:10** “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

**Acts 3:11-16**

In the flesh, in a truly and fully human nature, Jesus learned obedience.

**Hebrews 5:8-10** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

* Jesus came to obey the Universal Moral Law perfectly: This is the unchanging, eternal moral law that all people in all times are required to obey. This moral law, as we learned, was summarized and expressed by God in the Ten Commandments. This is a crucial part of Christ’s work.
* In addition to the Universal Moral Law, Jesus had to obey any other Positive Law that was applicable during the time He was living bodily here on earth. This means that Jesus had to obey the Positive Laws of the Old Covenant.
* In addition to the Positive Law of the time, Jesus had other positive laws—other commands—uniquely given to Him. These Positive Laws were the additional things required so that salvation can be granted to the chosen ones. They are things unique to Him. These things include Him having to die on a cross as a sacrifice for the sins of the elect. Jesus had to do that. It included Him having to become man in the first place: God the Son taking on flesh.

Jesus never had a sinful feeling or thought!

**John 2:13-17**

Jesus experienced all human emotions in His human nature and yet in thought, speech, and action, Jesus never sinned.