

Theme: Since we could not save ourselves, God the Son became human to work redemption for us.

I. Intro – Review

A. Our Redemption in Christ

1. Grace alone – God’s work – not ours
2. Faith alone – no works at all
3. Christ alone – He appeased wrath

B. The great benefits we have

1. Adoption, holiness, Spirit as seal, etc.
2. Redemption is wonderful!

C. Today – the method – the incarnation

1. What is the incarnation?
2. Why the incarnation? (Cur Deus Homo)
3. What are the implications of the incarnation?

II. What is the Incarnation?

A. The Deity and humanity of Christ

1. Deity – Gal 4:4; Is 9:6; Phil 2:6; John 1:1-3
2. Humanity – Gal 4:4; Gen 3:15; Heb 2:14; 2 John 1:7

B. Definition – Wayne Grudem

C. Biblical texts on incarnation

1. Gal 4:4 – God sent Son, born of woman
2. John 1:1, 14 – Word was God, became flesh
3. Phi 2:6-7 – very nature God; took human nature
4. Matthew 1:20-23 – conceived of Spirit; born to Mary; Immanuel

III. Why the Incarnation (Cur Deus Homo)?

A. To reunite heaven & earth, God & man

1. Job 9:32-33 – lay hand on us both!
2. Reunite God and man (Novatian; Augustine)

B. The nature of our problem required it

1. Heb 2:14 – became man to die, conquer Satan
2. Both natures necessary (Calvin)
3. Only the Word made flesh (Athanasius)

IV. What Are the Implications of the Incarnation?

A. Do we see the link between creation & redemption?

1. Creator is Redeemer – Athanasius
2. Both from Father, through Son, by Spirit (1 Cor 8:6; Gen 1:1-2; Gal 4:4-6)
3. Both creation & redemption centered on man
4. Redemption is coextensive with creation!

B. Do we see redemption answers the fall precisely?

1. Both fall & redemption come through humanity
2. More on this next week – 2nd Adam

C. Do we see salvation includes not only spiritual but flesh?

1. Redeemer is spirit and flesh (1Jn 4:2-3; 2 Jn 7)
2. Jesus continues in flesh after resurrection (Lk 24)
3. Redemption is both spirit and body (1Co 6:19-20; Rom 8:23)
4. Any other view is Gnostic – NOT Christian

D. Communion – our feast of redemption

1. This is our meal to celebrate redemption
2. Note that it is both spiritual and physical
3. Note it corresponds to creation & redemption
4. Note it corresponds to fall & redemption

The Method of Redemption - The Incarnation

Galatians 4:4-6

June 3, 2007

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Mighty God, Everlasting Father Isaiah 9:6
Who Being in very nature God .. Philippians 2:6

Jn 1:1-3

Her offspring Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- Hebrews 2:14

7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 1:7

The incarnation was the act of God the Son whereby He took to Himself a human nature. Wayne Grudem

20 "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."////22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:20-23

32 He is not a man like me that I might answer him, that we might confront each other in court. 33 If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both Job 9:32-33

The Word had to become flesh that He might unite in Himself the alliance between earthly and heavenly things by incorporating the pledges of both parties in Himself, thus uniting God with man and man with God Novatian

He is the mediator between God and man, because He is God with the Father and man with men. A mere man could not be a mediator between God and man; nor could a mere God. Behold the mediator: Divinity without humanity can not act as mediator; nor can humanity without Divinity; but the human Divinity and the Divine humanity of Christ is the sole mediator between Divinity and humanity. Augustine Oden, 102

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- Hebrews 2:14

In short, since neither as God alone could He feel death, nor as man alone could He overcome it, He coupled human nature with Divine that to atone for sin He might submit the weakness of the one to death; and that, wrestling with death by the power of the other nature, He might win victory for us John Calvin *Institutes*, 2.12.3

What – or rather Who was it that was needed for such grace and such recall as we required? Who save the Word of God Himself, Who also in the beginning made all things out of nothing? His part it was, and His alone, both to bring again the corruptible to incorruption and to maintain for the Father His consistency of character with all. For He alone, being Word of the Father above all, was in consequence both able to recreate all, and worthy to suffer on behalf of all and to be an ambassador for all with the Father. (Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*, 33)

The first fact you must grasp is this: *the renewal of creation has been wrought by the Self-same Word Who made it in the beginning*. There is thus no inconsistency between creation and salvation; for the One Father has employed the same Agent for both works, effecting the salvation of the world through the same Word Who made it in the beginning. Athan, p 26.

6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 1 Corinthians 8:6

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2

2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 1 John 4:2-3

7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 1:7

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Cor6:19-20

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23