

# Christmas 2009

## I John 4:2

**“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God”**

The great truth associated with Christmas is the glorious fact of the incarnation. The eternal Word of God, without whom “was not anything made that was made” (John 1:3) “was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Bible warns, therefore, that anyone one denies the human nature of Christ “*is not of God*” but rather is of the “*spirit of antichrist*” (1 John 4:3). This problem is very real because “*many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (1 John 4:1) – that is, those “New Age” teachers, gurus, rabbis, and mullahs or anyone else who deny that Jesus is the Christ, and that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again, that this was a physical death and a bodily resurrection. The real message of Christmas is not about a baby or gift giving or good will though these elements are there. It’s about the God/man, who once came in “*the likeness of sinful flesh*” to die in our place. It is silly to say that any person can become a “Christ” or any other compromise that takes away from the deity or humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Apostle John testified in 1 John 1:2 (*For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;*)

That living Word of God “was made in the likeness of men--- and became obedient to death of the cross. *Wherefore God hath highly exalted Him, ...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow – every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.*” (Phil 2:7-11)

How Christ could be both man and god is a great mystery, but the fact that He is both man and God is certain both from Scripture and history. He was “made” to be a man, by placing the “body of flesh” prepared for Him by God in the womb of the virgin, who herself is a descendant of David. But then He was declared to be the Son of God by His mighty resurrection from the dead, an event that only God Himself could accomplish.

The same truth is found even in the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). As a child, He must be born, but as God’s Son, He would be given. Furthermore, that human child would also be the “mighty God” and the “everlasting Father.” “A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” which means “God with us” in Isaiah 7:14. Christ has eternally been God; He will eternally be Man. He is forever, the God/Man --- man as God intended man to be and also the one true, eternal God.

**Ps 40:7-8 “then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,  
I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”**

Although David wrote these words, they go far beyond any of his own experiences. By divine inspiration, he was writing the very words of the coming Messiah, whose coming into the world had already been written down in God’s eternal Word. The writer of Hebrews in chapter 10:7 later quoted these same words as Messianic. So the basic reason why the eternal Son of God became man was that this was the will of His Father, planned before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20).

Jesus called himself “The son of man”. His reason for coming is stated in Luke 19:10, “The Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost.” “I am come,” He said, “that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10.)

At this time of the year, let us not just think of this as another holiday, but let us truly celebrate the birth of the “One true God” who name is the name about all other names.

**REMEMBER JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**

**Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us at Living Stones Church!  
Pastor Don and Mrs. Sharian**