

Finding the True Christ of Christmas

John 1:14

There are **two truths** about Jesus Christ found in John 1:14 that will help us recognize the true value of what happened at the birth of Christ.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14 (New International Version)

- **Truth #1: JESUS IS FULLY GOD.**

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
John 1:17 (NIV)

Two Important Facts about “the Word”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2 (NIV)

- Jesus was in union with God or in fellowship with God.

“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” John 17:5 (NIV)

(See John 3:13; 6:33, 42, 50-51, 58, 62 for Jesus’ claims to be in heaven before His earthly existence.)

(See John 7:16, 27-29, 33-34; 8:18, 26, 42; 16:28; 17:18 for Jesus claims that the Father had sent Him.)

- Jesus was God.

Proof from God’s Word that Jesus was fully God

- Jesus claimed to be God.

⁵¹“I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

⁵²At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are? . . . ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”
⁵⁷“You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” ⁵⁸“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” ⁵⁹At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:51-59 (NIV)

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14 (NIV)

- Jesus did the works of God.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. John 14:11 (English Standard Version)

- Jesus demonstrated His omnipotence. (See Matthew 8:26-27; 14:19; John 2:1-11.)

“This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” (See John 2:11.)

- Jesus demonstrated His omniscience. (See Mark 2:8; John 1:48; 2:25; 6:64; 16:30.)

- Jesus is called “God” in the New Testament.

- God the Father= Greek word = “theos”

- “Theos” is used for Jesus seven times in the NT (See John 1:1; 1:18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1.)

. . . Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. Romans 9:5 (NIV)

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, . . . Colossians 1:19 (ESV)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, . . . Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

- **Truth #2: JESUS IS FULLY MAN.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us . . . We have seen his glory . . . John 1:14 (NIV)

- “became” = Greek word = *egeneto* = a person or a thing changes its property or enters into a new condition
- “flesh” = Greek word = *sarx* = a living creature = all that a person is

Jesus Became a Human Being in every Important Way

- Jesus had a human body. (See Luke 2:27)
- Jesus had a human mind. (See Luke 2:52; Hebrews 5:8)
- Jesus had a human soul and human emotions. (See John 12:27; 11:35)

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears . . . Hebrews 5:7a (ESV)

- In becoming a man, Jesus “*made his dwelling among us . . .*”
 - Greek phrase for “dwelling” = “pitched a tabernacle” or “pitched a tent”
 - See Exodus 33:7-11; 40:34-38.
 - The Tabernacle was the place of the localized presence of God on earth.

- **HOW JESUS’ VIRGIN BIRTH RELATES TO THE TRUTHS THAT HE IS BOTH FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN**

“Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) (See Luke 2 for the fulfillment of this verse.)

Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus. Jesus is called the Christ. Matthew 1:16 (New Century Version)

Why Is the Virgin Birth so Important? Because . . .

- . . . the virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person.

- . . . the virgin birth made possible Christ’s true humanity without inherited sin.

Original Sin = All human beings have inherited legal guilt and a corrupt moral nature from their first father, Adam. (See Romans 5:12-21.)

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” Luke 1:35 (ESV)

Jesus is the one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

He is a high priest who is holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens.” (Hebrews 7:26).

- **WHY “THE WORD” BECAME FLESH**

- Jesus “had” to be fully man to be a substitute sacrifice.

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:16-17 (NIV)

- Jesus “had” to be fully God because only Someone who was infinite God could have borne the full penalty for all the sins of mankind.

- **OUR RESPONSE TO THE TRUE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS**

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. John 1:12-13 (NIV)