

The Trinity & The Incarnation

There is one, and only one, true God whose eternal being has been revealed to us as a tri-unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct, yet inseparable, Persons possessing one and the same divine nature.

**How does the incarnation relate to the Trinity?
And, if God is Triune, why is the church Christ-centered?**

Here are eight foundational principles to help understand how the Trinity and the incarnation relate:

1: One man represented the human race, with the consequences of his choice experienced by everyone. In Adam's sin, we sinned all.

(Rom. 5:15; 1 Cor. 15:21)

2. A man got us into this mess; a man would have to get us out. God promised such a man.

1 Tim. 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"

3. Not any man would do; he could not be fallen. An innocent man would have to be tested and proven sinless.

(Hebrews 4:14-15)

4. Since no ordinary man would do, the Father sent his Son. The eternal Son became the human Son of the Father.

Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law"

5. As man, he would have to live by the rules by which men are supposed to live. This Man would live as the first man was supposed to have lived: In continuous fellowship with the Father, in complete reliance on the Father, and in constant obedience to the Father.

(John 5:19, 30; 8:29; 12:49)

6. Because Jesus lived by "man rules," he could not act on his own authority or in his own power as God – but as a man led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32; Luke 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:14, 16-19; Acts 10:38; Matt. 12:28; Heb. 9:14)

7. As the God-Man, Jesus' self-sacrifice on the cross would be acceptable to God due to his proven sinlessness, appropriate for people due to his genuine humanity, and sufficient for all due to his infinite deity. (Romans 5:18)

Anselm: "The debt was so great that, while man alone owed it, only God could pay it, so that same person must be both man and God"

8. Upon completion of his mission as man, he would be exalted as man. (Philippians 2:5-11)

As man, Jesus was exalted. In Heaven, Jesus retains his humanity, though it is exalted humanity. As God, he merely resumed his glory with the Father. He couldn't be exalted as God; since God is already is exalted as high up as up can be.

A Helpful Comparison: Viceroy

A viceroy is a ruler who governs a colony on behalf of a King or Queen. The term is derived from the French word "vice-roi," which means 'in place of the king.' The viceroy is appointed by the monarch and has the authority to exercise power over the colony. (Acts 17:30-31 "The man he has appointed")

Jesus: Man on a Mission (1 Cor. 15:21-28)

