



# I Believe

The Apostle's Creed affirms, "I Believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,..."



*"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."*

*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

*Matthew 1:20-21*

If you were fabricating a story about the birth of a messiah, would you have used an unwed teenage girl and an obscure carpenter from a tiny town as the backdrop for that birth?

That's exactly the story line we are given in the gospels when we read those words, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows..."

When the Apostles Creed, therefore, affirms that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, we are affirming what Christians have always proclaimed.

Jesus is fully human and fully God. Those claims have been contentious at times. Some have claimed that Jesus was the person closest to God, even the most God-like but not really and truly God. Others have claimed that Jesus only appeared to be human, but wasn't really and truly human like you and me.

These controversies raged across the early years and gave rise to the great creeds such as the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D., wrestled with this question of the nature of Jesus, or the natures of Jesus, and they decided after long, intense, accurate biblical study that Jesus Christ — "is one person with two natures.

He has a divine nature and a human nature. In other words, Jesus is both God and man.

That is hard to get your brain around, I know, and yet the Apostles Creed asserts that Jesus was the God-man. Jesus was no ordinary child—this was a Savior sent by God.

Isn't this amazing to think about?! The One who created the universe and put the stars in place ... the One who made us and watches over us ... this One stooped down and became a man! He didn't cease to be God when He did this—He took on human flesh, and God became a man.

Jesus was God in human flesh. We call this the "incarnation." It is this truth that sets Christianity apart from all other religions of the world.

As a human, Jesus experienced what we experience.

For instance:

He became tired (John 4:6)

He experienced physical thirst (John 19:28)

He knew physical hunger (Matthew 4:2)

He experienced physical weakness (Matthew 8:23-25)

He experienced temptation, as we do.

But Jesus was also God. In John 10:30 through 33, Jesus says, "I and the Father are one." And then later, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father." John 14:9

He knows everything (Matthew 16:21), has all power (Matthew 8:26-7), is creator (Colossians 1:16; (John 1:3), forgives sin and more.

St. Athanasius, an early church father wrote a book entitled "On the Incarnation." In that book he argues, "If Jesus is not fully divine, then you are still in your sins. If Jesus is not truly the unique, the eternal Son of God, coequal with His Father and the Holy spirit, then our salvation is compromised and lost."

A lamb could not die in our place; neither could an angel. A man needed to die for all of us, a man without sin. Christ became that man on our behalf.

Read Titus 2:13; John 20:28; John 1:18; Colossians 2:9

What does it mean for you to know that Jesus was a human like us?  
Does it help you to know that He experienced the same feelings, emotions and even temptations as we do? Read Hebrews 4:14-16  
What does it mean to know that Jesus was God?  
How do you feel when you consider that Jesus Christ forgives us of sin?  
What is the significance of Jesus' sinlessness?



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”  
John 1:14