

The Difficulty of Christmas

Philippians 2:6–7



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- ✦ What is the Trinity?
- ✦ For eternity past when there was nothing else, there was God in the Trinity



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Philippians 2:6–7 (English Standard Version)

⁶who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.



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✦ To the difficulty of the Trinity, we now add this:

At the first Christmas, the fullness of God in the person of the Son was fused with human nature

✦ As people have struggled with all that this means, they have often slipped into heresy and confusion

✦ But a proper understanding of this is the clearest marker of Christianity



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- ✦ Jesus was divine that took on human appearance but not real flesh
- ✦ Jesus was the 1st creation, but not God
- ✦ Jesus had two separate natures shoved into a human body; primarily human
- ✦ God is one and reveals Himself in 3 persons; no Trinity



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- ✦ What does all of this matter?
- ✦ It is central to what the Bible teaches about the depth and desperation of our sinfulness and the work of the cross



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1 John 4:2 (English Standard Version)

²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,



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Philippians 2:6–7 (English Standard Version)

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- ✦ Exist= unchangeably exist
- ✦ Form= the essential character
- ✦ Equality= exact quality
- ✦ Likeness= not an exact replica; what was Christ missing?
- ✦ Sinfulness!



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✦ Christ was God in the flesh; all of God co-existing in human form, lacking sinfulness



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Luke 1:35 (English Standard Version)

³⁵And the angel answered her, "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.



- ✦ We celebrate God in the flesh at Christmas; what else are we to do?
- ✦ 1) Remember that the cost paid as God in the flesh was just and proportionate
- ✦ 2) Remember to give ourselves away for others, as God did
- ✦ 3) Do something with this baby:
- ✦ Do not limit him to Christmas
- ✦ Live like God Himself redeemed us
- ✦ Submit to His claims on our lives as Savior and Lord




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John 20:29–31 (English Standard Version)

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.



Family Christmas Service

The background of the slide features two lit red candles. The candle on the left is taller and has a bright, yellow and orange flame. The candle on the right is shorter and also has a bright flame. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a soft, out-of-focus texture.

- TONIGHT! 5PM @
The Hilton Garden Inn
- Join us as we celebrate
the birth of our Savior!

Covenant Membership Class

January 30 & February 6



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT
THE SANCTUARY?**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
THESANCTUARYFELLOWSHIP.COM**

**SHARE THE JOURNEY WITH US AS WE SEEK TO
LOVE PEOPLE & ENJOY GOD!**

Retirement Home Ministry

- Retirement Home Ministry
TODAY @ 2 PM
- Greatwood Retirement &
Assisted Living Center
- For more info, please see
Cheryl Marshall immediately
following the service



Christmas Schedule



❖ We will have service on Sunday, December 26th. Childcare will be provided for birth through Pre-School.

❖ The church offices will be closed from December 22nd through the 28th. If you have an emergency and need to reach a staff member you can do so by calling 832-922-7734 and leave a message.