



THE APOSTLES' CREED





...who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary...



Incarnation
Substitution
Resurrection



When the Son of God became human, he did so not by ceasing to be divine and transforming into human. Instead, “without ceasing to be what he was, he became what he was not,” as Gregory Nazianzen said... The Son of God took human nature into union with his own person; he assumed it and added it to himself. We call this addition of human nature the hypostatic union, where “hypostatic” means personal and points out that this person, the eternal Son, having always had the divine nature, appropriated to himself a human nature all his own.



You might say it this way: It's no good thinking of the Son as departing from heaven and landing on earth, morphing from God to man on the journey. That assumes that the divine nature turned into the human nature. But it's also no good thinking of the Son as operating a Mr. Jesus device by remote control from his distant control center in heaven. One is too close; the other too far... He is neither too far from our situation to help us, nor too close to our situation to save us. He is at exactly the right distance.



We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man. God, of the Substance of the Father; begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of His Mother, born into the world... Equal to the Father, as touching His Godhead: and inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. Who although He be God and Man; yet He is not two, but one Christ.



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.



³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”



At the great turning points of history, we find a woman, pregnant, and an infant child brought into the world by the powerful promise of God. Israel's story is a story of miraculous births.

- Ben Myers, *The Apostles' Creed*



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

- Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)



All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).