

4. THE FATHER PREPARED A BODY FOR HIS SON TO BE A SACRIFICE FOR SIN

Notice in **Heb. 10:4-10** how the sacrifice of our Lord's body was to be the great sacrifice for sin. It would bring an end to the sacrifices of Old Testament. It would be sufficient to pay the price of sin for all His people to ransom them from condemnation.

It needs no repetition **Heb. 10:12 – 14 & 18.**

The human nature of our Lord also involved a human soul. It was in His soul that our Lord suffered His deepest sorrows.

‘The sufferings of his soul were the soul of his sufferings.’

“Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” Matt. 26:38

What depths of sorrow in soul are contained in the words of our Saviour from the cross, **“My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”**

There is only one answer to this cry. The Father made His Son to be sin for us. **Is. 53**

5. GOD MADE THE LORD'S BODY TO BE THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH.

How are sinners to be saved? By looking unto Jesus. His body is the focal point of our faith. Whether it be the body hanging on the tree, or the body now in glory, we are called to look unto Him.

See **John 3:14 – 18** To look unto Jesus is to believe on Him. You must cast your soul upon the God-Man as your Saviour.

To help us in this the Lord has instituted the Lord's table with the bread to represent His body. He says to us, **“...this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”**

As we dwell on the body of the Lord Jesus we must remember that He is God in the flesh, possessing all the attributes of Deity, yet a perfect sinless man. We must rejoice in the infinite payment He made for us through His sacrifice for sin while His body hung upon the cruel cross.

We must rely on the atoning sacrifice of the incarnate suffering and dying Saviour for salvation. This is to eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of man.

It is not enough that our Lord should come into this world, become incarnate and die on the cross. We must believe on the Lord Jesus and receive Him by faith, trusting in His work as our Redeemer.

Christ looked upon as bleeding and dying, is the proper object of our faith. It is called therefore, **“faith in his blood” Rom 3:25,** The blood of God, without faith in God will not save your soul.

The Free Presbyterian Church in Cloverdale

www.cloverdalefpc.ca

Who is The Lord Jesus Christ?

Message 2 God Incarnate

On this communion Sunday we want to talk about the body of the Lord Jesus. **Christianity focuses upon the human body of the Lord Jesus** and all that He accomplished in His death for sinners. We are to take this bread in hand and remember the Lord's body.

Man has always craved for a God who is visible and tangible. Fallen men have resorted to many idols to whom they offer worship with their eyes. Idolatry has proliferated in the world because of this craving. God has answered this for His people in giving us His Son in human form - He prepared a body for the Lord Jesus to dwell among us in our very nature.

There can be no greater act of mercy from the God of all grace and no greater act of condescension from the Son. In the miracle of the incarnation is centred the whole gospel story – God's good news to sinful men.

Again we must ask the question, Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer: He is the second person of the Trinity who is become flesh. **John 1:14.**

The next question is How did the Lord Jesus receive such a body?

Answer: It was prepared by God the Father. **“A body hast thou prepared me.” Hebrews 10:5**

Can this be believed? Oswald Sanders said, **“The HOW of the birth becomes believable when the WHO of the birth is taken into account.”**

Only in isolation from the unique Person who was born does the virgin birth create difficulties. Would not the pre-existence of Christ necessitate some such miracle of birth.

An orthodox Jew once asked a Christian, “Suppose a son were born among us today, and it was said of him that he was born of a virgin, would you believe it?”

“Yes” replied the other, “I would believe it if he were such a son!”

The Son's supernatural life required that he had a supernatural birth”

So Bible Christianity declares that God prepared a body for the Son of God. He became incarnate (clothed in human flesh) by a supernatural act of God's power. We will dwell on the Miracle of God preparing a body for His Son.

1. GOD PREPARED A NEW BODY FOR HIS SON

From all eternity God the Son existed with God the Father and was equally God. John 1:3. As God is Spirit none of the persons in the Trinity possessed a body. What took place in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus was unique to Him.

He was given a new body. Our Lord Jesus did not assume the body of any other person. God created a unique body that would make Him the Saviour of His people.

The process of the incarnation of our Lord must not be confused with re-incarnation. Our Lord existed prior to His conception in Mary's womb in spirit form only. Through the incarnation God created a body for the Son of God.

It was truly God coming to dwell with men - Emanuel. John 1:14

In the incarnation, "Human flesh has become adorable as the true Shechinah, the everlasting palace of the supreme Majesty, wherein the fulness of the Godhead dwelleth bodily, the most holy shrine of Divinity, the orb of inaccessible light, as this, and more than all this, if more could be expressed, or if we could explain that text, 'the word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us.'" _Barrow Quoted by Dr. John Brown in discourses on the Lord's Supper pg 24.

Quote and memorize Col. 2:9.

2. GOD PREPARED A PERFECT HUMAN BODY FOR HIS SON

There is at first reluctance for man to accept that God could be joined with man in a real human body.

Human nature is so depraved and so unclean that to men it is unthinkable that God should send His Son to be joined to sinful human nature. But God found a way to prepare a body that was perfectly human yet also perfectly holy. For this God prepared a body for His Son in a truly miraculous fashion.

Anselm reviewed four ways in which God can make man:

1. By the law of natural generation – a man and a woman.
2. Without the agency of either man or woman – as Adam.
3. A man without a woman – as Eve.
4. Though the divine empowering of a man and a woman both past age - as Abraham and Sarah

If these be admitted, as they must be if the Scripture records are accepted as authoritative and trustworthy, it is but a step to believe that Jesus was born of a woman without a man, that He was begotten of the Holy Spirit.

This is the miracle of the virgin birth. Mary conceived by the direct act of God the Holy Spirit.

Because the father of our Lord Jesus is God and not man and because the transmission of sin through Mary was prevented by the work of the Holy Spirit who 'overshadowed her' **Luke 1:35**, the Lord is sinless.

The child that would be brought forth was called "Holy" **Luke 1:35**.

The whole life and ministry of Christ would prove the truth of this fact.

The cause of such a holy life, for the Lord Jesus who knew no sin and did no sin, can be traced to the miracle of His sinless conception, or

what is more commonly called the Virgin Birth.

Had Jesus been a man like other men he would have been a man like other men.

Our Lord Jesus put his stamp of His divine Sonship, when he said, "I and my father are one" **John 10:30**, and again when he said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." **John 14:9**

3. GOD PREPARED A HUMAN BODY TO BE JOINED TO HIS DIVINE NATURE MAKING HIM A UNI-PERSONALITY

Here is the mystery of godliness. **1Tim. 3:16**

When He was equipped to be the Redeemer of His people our Lord Jesus did not cease to be God, nor was He less than perfect man.

As man he was subject to all the limitations of man-hood. He hungered, he slept, he suffered in body and mind. Everything that was human apart from sin our Lord Jesus experienced in his body.

Yet, he was no less God in the flesh. He did not cease to be God, nor to possess all the attributes of Deity.

He was to be worshipped and honoured as the Father. **John 5:23**

He was the revelation of the Father. **John 14:9**

The Lord maintained two distinct natures after his incarnation:

Shorter Catechism Q. 21 Who is the redeemer of God's elect?

Answer: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ who being the eternal Son of God was and continues to be God and became man, and so was and continueth to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever. **Romans 9:5, Col. 2:9**

Note that the Lord continued to possess two distinct natures, yet he was one person. He never ceased to be God and He will always be perfect man.

The Lord displayed His two natures when he was asleep in the boat with the other disciples. **Mark 4:37 – 41.**

Being asleep on a pillow shows his humanity requiring rest to renew his physical strength. When he arose from sleep to rebuke the winds and water He displayed His divine power.

This is the God-Man at work. Indeed we can only understand our Lord in his miracles, parables, compassion, power over men and devils and his voluntary submission to endure death by the cross when we understand His uni-personality. Sometimes He acted as God and sometimes He acted in full accordance with His human nature.

It is a sad error of the Cults and Liberals to deny our Lord His full deity, when they observe Him manifesting only His human nature.