
OPEN - Questions

Incarnation: God Comes - October

1. Is it true that Mormons believe that Jesus was a man that BECAME God? If it is, how do they back that belief with scripture?

They don't back it with Scripture and the CAN'T back it with Scripture. They use the Book of Mormon to explain their heretical beliefs.



2. Was God unable to relate to humans before the incarnation?

We begin with the understanding that God is omniscient – that is he knows all things – He never LEARNS anything. Thus, He knows everything about our humanity. In the incarnation He added humanity to His divinity – not to primarily for the sake of understanding us – but to be to be our kinsman redeemer, to stand as a man in the place of sinful man to endure the wrath of God that we deserve. Having said that, as a man, Jesus entered time and space and was also joined experientially with life in these tents of flesh – and thus we read in Hebrews 4:14-15

14Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

3. If Jesus became fully man, but without our sinful nature, how then could He fully understand what it is like to be tempted?

Before man's original sin everything about his nature was "good." In fact, God said that it was "very good." Neither Adam, nor Eve, had a sinful nature when they were tempted. Jesus was conceived and came into this world without sin – even as our first parents came into the world without sin. He experienced temptation as fully as did Adam and Eve, yet without sin.

4. When Jesus became flesh and he was given a body, was he given a sinful nature?

The answer is no. Before man's original sin everything about his nature was "good." In fact, God said that it was "very good." Sin did not cause Adam and Eve (and us) to cease to be human. We are not less than human – we are still image bearers of God. But, the image of God is marred and stained and tainted. In our study of the Fall we learned about the concept of "Total Depravity." Total depravity means that sin has affected the totality of a person; our thoughts – our feelings – our will – our emotions – our body. Every man and woman born into this world comes into the world in that spiritual condition. Jesus is the only exception. Jesus did not inherit Adam's sinful nature, because He was born of a virgin and conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

5. Was the census that Caesar ordered illegal according to Jewish law?

No – because they were

6. Is our sinful nature our basic human instincts? Was Jesus tempted because of those instincts?

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7. What was Jesus' way of getting through His temptations?

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness He constantly answered the suggestions of Satan with "It is written." In response to the first temptation Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 to defeat Satan. Feeding on and obeying God's Word is more important than consuming physical food. In fact, it is our food (John 4:32-34). IN response to His second temptation Jesus replied with Deuteronomy 6:16 : "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." We tempt God when we put ourselves into circumstances that force Him to work miracles on our behalf. We tempt God when we try to force Him to contradict His own Word. It is important for us as believers to read all Scripture, and study all God has to say, for all of it is profitable for daily life (2 Tim. 3:16-17). In the third temptation Jesus replied with Deuteronomy 6:13 : "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Satan had said nothing about service, but Jesus knew that whatever we worship, we will serve. Worship and service must go together.

8. What's an easier way to describe God in three parts to non-believers?

Actually, there is no EASY way to explain the Trinity. AUGUSTINE said - If you deny the Trinity you lose your soul – If you try to explain it you lose your mind!

So let's take what the doctrine of the Trinity states, and then break it down

The doctrine of the Trinity states that: There is ONE God - Who eternally exists as three distinct persons - Father, Son and Spirit - Each FULLY and EQUALLY God

The Trinity is ONE God (monotheism)

Who eternally exists (never a time when the Father, Son and Spirit didn't exist)

He exists as three distinct persons

"Person" does not mean that God the Father or God the Spirit became human beings. (God the Son did)

Rather, it means that each member of the Trinity thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates because they are persons as opposed impersonal forces.

And each member of the Trinity is equally God

Which means that they share the divine attributes, such as eternity – omniscience – omnipotence – and omnipresence.

Three distinct persons – Father, Son and Spirit – who are each FULLY and EQUALLY God

FULLY = Each possesses the fullness of Divine Attributes.

EQUALLY = One is not more God than the other

9. What is Jesus' current state? Things like The Shack allude to a Jesus that is still human and God? Is his humanity currently gone?

First – The depiction of God in “The Shack” is Modalism (which is heretical). This heresy essentially says that there is one God who puts on three masks. It essentially states that in the OT he acts like the Father – In Gospels He acts like Jesus – From the Book of Acts forward He acts like the Holy Spirit.

In “The Shack” Papa says - “I am truly human in Jesus”. THAT is not true. THAT is Modalism. The Father was NOT born of a virgin – did not die on a cross. The Son did. The Doctrine of the Trinity declares that they are distinct persons

The Father SENT the Son.

The SON died for sin.

The Spirit was sent to regenerate and indwell us.

They are working together.

But they are distinct.

Second – Jesus is forever united with us in our humanity.

10. If Jesus was tempted as a man than why in James 1:13 does it say that God cannot be tempted? I know the bible does not contradict itself so can you explain?

Remember how we learned about the concept called the Hypostatic Union issued in the Chalcedonian Creed in 451 A.D. Hypostasis meaning that Jesus is one person with two natures. Jesus was not being tempted as God – rather as a man.

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