

Jesus Christ

Who do you say that I am?

Mark 8: 27 – 31 (See also Matthew 16: 13 – 20 & Luke 9: 18 – 21)

Jesus went out with His disciples into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptizer, and others say Elijah, but others yet say that You are one of the prophets." Jesus said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "You are the Christ!" Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone who He was.

Jesus = O Lord, save.

Matthew 1: 21

She will give birth to a son and you shall give Him the name Jesus because He will be the One to save His people from their sins.

Christ = Anointed One. Chosen One. The Messiah.

Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, eternally born of the Father. He became man, and therefore He is at the same time fully God and fully man. His coming to earth was foretold in the Old Testament by the prophets.

In reciting the Nicene Creed, Orthodox Christians regularly affirm the historic faith concerning Jesus.

Jesus is a real person. A historical figure (A real person in history). Not a myth.

Creed

And in one Lord Jesus Christ... Through Whom all things were made... For our salvation... And His Kingdom will have no end.

From the Hymns of Nativity (Christmas)

The Feast of the Incarnation – God becomes Man.

Nativity Canon

The Creator, seeing man perishing, whom He had made with His own hands, bowed heaven and descended; and from the godly and pure Virgin, He took all of man's nature, being truly incarnate; therefore God has been glorified.

Let us cry aloud to Christ God, the Son who was begotten of the Father without change before the ages, and in these last times incarnate of the Virgin without seed: You have raised up our power. Holy are you, O Lord!

The Incarnation

"The Word became flesh" (John 1: 14).

Christ is the God-man (Theanthropos). He is perfect God (Theos) and perfect man. At the same time He is one person; that is, one person in two natures, the divine (God = Theos) and the human (Man = Anthropos).

These two natures are unconfusedly united, so that they form one person but at the same time are not confused.

Jesus was born as perfect man, and behaved as a man. He had the natural needs of man (except He never sinned. Tempted, but never fell into sin). The divine nature did not overwhelm the human nature, nor did the human nature overwhelm the divine. He condescended to humble Himself, to become man, to put on human flesh, just as we in baptism put on Christ. As Christ descended, man ascended. As God was incarnate, man was able to become God-like.

God and man were united in the person of Christ and became the divine and extraordinary person of the God-man. Never before has another such person existed, nor will again, in the history of the world and of humanity. In Christ the God-man, two natures have been united: the divine and the human, without confusion, distinct, separate, and independent, each unchanged by the other. Christ, the Son of God, is also the Son of Man. Perfect God and perfect Man. He is truly the God-man in the full sense of the word. As God, He is born of God the Father "before all ages." As human, He was born "of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary," in Bethlehem in Judea, 2000 years ago.

The event of the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God and His retaining both His divine and human natures have made a profound impression, resulting inevitably in much debate. The Third, Fourth, and Sixth Ecumenical Councils dealt with this matter.

**The purpose of the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God.
Why did Christ have to come? Why did He have to die?**

With the disobedience of Adam and Eve, mankind fell and lost Grace. Mankind was alienated from God. Humanity was expelled from Paradise. In order for fallen human nature to be restored, the Son and Word of God had to assume the whole of human nature completely, to restore it to Heaven through His Resurrection and Ascension.

Hymn from Ascension

"Carrying deceived human nature upon Your shoulders, O Christ, through Your Ascension You brought it before God the Father."

This was the purpose of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Theosis - Deification

As St Athanasios writes, "God became man in order for us to become godly."

No one should think that we humans can become gods and be given a divine nature. No. We can become godly in the moral sense.