

#2 Jesus Human and Divine

Part 2

Remembering the Christmas story

The season of Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy. Friends and families reunite and relationships are renewed. Children get excited by the prospect of Santa coming and receiving gifts. Lots of money gets spent. Lots of food and drink are consumed. The American version of Christmas has become so popular, countries like Japan, which have very few Christians, celebrate Christmas with as much gusto as we.

Whether you 'have fun' at Christmas, whether it is a time of joy and celebration for you seems to change from year to year, sometimes even day to day. But having fun or not having fun is well beside the point of Christmas. In all the holiday hoopla, I fear we forget the most important aspect of Christmas.

Christmas is all about, or should be all about, the fundamental assertion of our faith: God, the only God, the creator God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth — yes that one. God became a human being and entered the world in the same way every human being enters the world: as a helpless baby.

Yes, yes, we display the manger scenes. We attend the Christmas pageants. We attend the church services. But it all seems a bit unreal, doesn't it?

I mean, the concept of Almighty God becoming a human being is hard for our intellect to grasp. So many questions. What does it mean to be God? What does it mean to be human? These are topics few of us can ponder for very long because finding a definitive, provable answer is quite impossible.

Rather, the Christian assertion that God became human being like us is a point of faith. Everything that follows in the story of Jesus is rooted in our believing that it actually happened. Jesus is both Almighty God and a little boy who fell down like every child does and scraped his knees.

If Jesus was only human, then he was also mentally ill because he claimed he personally could forgive our sins, something only God can do.

If Jesus was only God, then how do any of the very human things the gospels claim he said and did enable him to attract the human followers he had? How, otherwise, could anyone approach him and live to tell about it?

These are hard questions and maybe that's why we've turned Christmas into a simple children's holiday.

Grace and Peace to You!

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Please join us for Sunday Worship at 10:30!

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